THE PULSE

The Heartbeat of the District.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NOVEMBER 12, 2026 | VOL. 12

DISTRICT ANNOUNCES MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL COMMUNITY FORUMS

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laurie W. Newell announced the dates for the upcoming community forums focused on the district's Middle School Model during the Board of Education Workshop meeting on Tuesday, November 10. The forums will focus on the 2027–2028 school year transition, marking Phase 4 of the district's Middle School Model implementation.

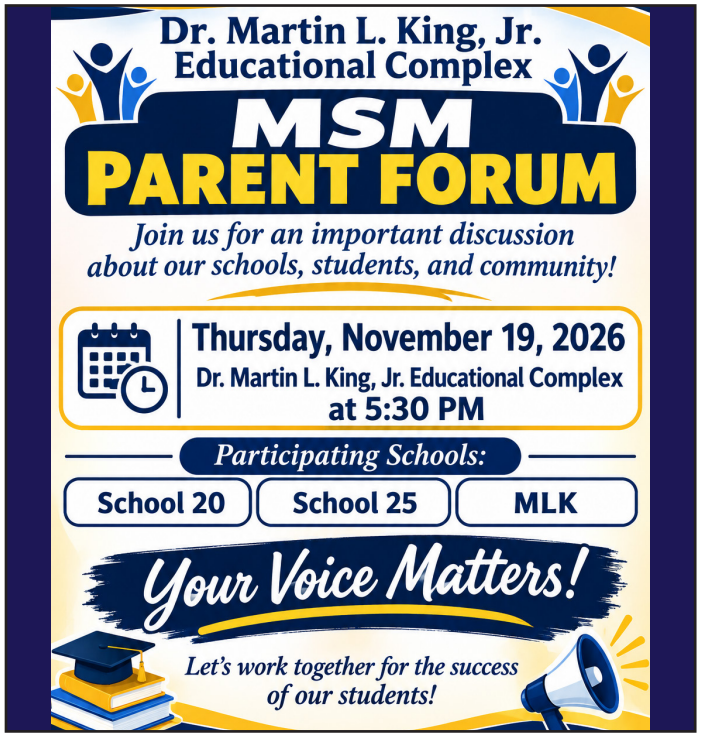
The first forum will take place on Wednesday, November 18, at 5:30 p.m. at Maria Magda O'Keefe School. The session will serve the communities of School 13, School 16, and Maria Magda O'Keefe School. A second forum is scheduled for Thursday, November 19, at 5:30 p.m. at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational Complex. This session will welcome families from School 20, School 25, and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational Complex community.

These forums will provide families with additional information about upcoming changes and an opportunity to ask questions and share their perspectives.

Dr. Newell also announced plans to organize focus groups for the communities of Dr. Frank Napier, Jr. School of Science & Technology, School 12, and School 28. These sessions will provide parents and guardians with an opportunity to share concerns, ask questions, and participate in open discussions about the proposed Middle School Model.

For more information regarding the reconfiguration of elementary schools, click here.





SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Greetings Paterson Public Schools Community,



Every school day brings an opportunity for students to learn, grow, and take meaningful steps toward their future. Whether strengthening academic skills, exploring new interests, or setting personal goals, the experiences students gain today can help prepare them for tomorrow.

Our district offers programs and resources to support students academically and help them prepare for the future. High school students who need to recover credits are encouraged to take advantage of the district's after-school Credit Recovery Program. Registration is now open for Session 1, which runs from November 2, 2026, through February 12, 2027, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Session 2 will run from February 17 through May 24, 2027, during the same hours. Students and families can contact their child's school or visit the district website for registration information and additional details.

Another important part of preparing for the future is exploring the many opportunities available beyond high school. On Thursday, November 19, Paterson Public Schools' Department of Guidance and Counseling will host its annual College and Career Fair from 9:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at John F. Kennedy High School. Students will have the opportunity to connect with representatives from colleges and universities, military branches, community organizations, and trade schools to learn about postsecondary pathways and consider the possibilities ahead. Students can register through their school counselors and at StriveFair.com.

As we move forward, I encourage our students to stay focused on their goals, seek guidance when needed, and make the most of the opportunities ahead. With the continued support of our educators and families, we can help every student build the knowledge, confidence, and skills needed to succeed.

Sincerely,

Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL 12 VISITS WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY



October is a golden month in New Jersey: blue skies, vivid foliage, and ideal temperatures for outdoor strolls. Last week, 7th and 8th grade students from School 12 spent one of these perfect fall days at William Paterson University.

Two William Paterson guides greeted the students at the bus and immediately led them on a 75-minute tour across the 370-acre campus. Highlights included stops at the library, the academic buildings (where a choir was rehearsing in the Black Box Theater), the art building (where the head of the galleries shared insights on program offerings), and the Student Center, with its vibrant food and entertainment options. Students also enjoyed a visit to a model dorm room, helping them picture themselves as future college students.

After lunch, students danced along to the common-hour fall festival music playing on the University Commons green as they headed to the library. There, in the auditorium, an Admissions Team member gave a "Going to College" presentation, planting early seeds for future academic success. The day concluded with an engaging Student Panel Q&A that deeply resonated with the students. It was especially exciting to learn that seven of the eight panelists hailed from Paterson, and one even held a diploma from School 12! She credited her middle school teachers with building the strong foundation that led to her high school and college success.

7th grade ELA teacher Ms. Hall worked with William Paterson staff to bring this visit to life. In the days following the visit, students offered heartfelt thanks for opening their eyes to the possibilities for their futures.

AUTHOR VISIT BRINGS POETRY TO LIFE FOR SFLS 4TH GRADERS



Fourth graders at Senator Frank R. Lautenberg School (SFLS) welcomed author and poet Ms. Michelle Koubek for a virtual visit that built on their classroom poetry unit. 4th grade teacher Ms. Christina Loughnane and reading specialist Mr. Jonathan Raditch, collaborated to organize the visit.

Ms. Koubek shared poems from her children's poetry books "Spooky Booky" and "The Troll Who Holds Up the Sky", guiding students to use context clues and details from the illustrations to draw conclusions about what they read. As a culminating activity, students wrote their own acrostic poems and created illustrations to accompany them.

SFLS SUPPORTS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

Senator Frank R. Lautenberg School (SFLS) turned school spirit into community impact on October 22. Organized by Special Education Teacher Mr. Thomas Dehab and Principal Dr. Sherri Brackett, the school hosted a Breast Cancer Awareness T-shirt fundraiser and a $1 Wear Pink Day. Through the generosity of its students and staff, SFLS raised $300, which was donated to the John Theurer Cancer Center at Hackensack Meridian Health.

This initiative demonstrated the power of a school community united for a meaningful cause and the SFLS Stallion mindset of celebrating every stride, no matter how small. On this day, SFLS celebrated the stride it took against breast cancer.



SCHOOL 16 NEWSROOM PROMOTES SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS

The School 16 student newsroom, The Recess Report, is taking an active role in promoting suicide prevention awareness. As part of the school's September Suicide Prevention Awareness activities, student journalists interviewed fellow students and staff to discuss suicide prevention and intervention, recognizing warning signs, and identifying ways to support peers who may be struggling.

Through The Recess Report, School 16 students are using their voices to encourage awareness, promote meaningful conversations, and help foster a supportive school environment where students look out for one another. To watch The Recess Report, click here.



HUMAN RESOURCES TO HOST IN-PERSON CERTIFIED TEACHER JOB FAIR

The Paterson Public Schools Department of Human Resources will host an In-Person Certified Teacher Job Fair on Tuesday, November 17 from 4 PM to 7 PM at the Central Office.

The event will provide an opportunity for prospective certified teachers to explore employment opportunities throughout the district and connect with school representatives. School representatives are asked to RSVP by Monday, November 16, to ensure their vacancies are accurately reflected on the job fair listing and a table is prepared for their school.

To confirm attendance, please complete the RSVP form.



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Have a story you'd like to share?

- Stories highlighting school activities or recognitions (i.e., awards)
- Inspiring stories involving students, teachers, and staff
- Fun events that took place at your school or in the community involving students, teachers, and staff

Use our Newsletter Submission Google Form

PPS IN THE NEWS

Top 20 Middle Schools in New Jersey for 2027: See Which Towns Made the List
New Jersey Digest | November 10, 2026

Paterson's New Roberto Clemente School Among 50 Nationwide Honored for Community Service
TAPinto Paterson | November 5, 2026

Youth Service America Recognizes 50 National Gold Ribbon Schools in Service-Learning
The National Law Review | November 5, 2026

Petrucci Family FDN Announces Teaching Artist Residency Connecting African American Art History with Paterson Schools
EIN Presswire | November 5, 2026

Petrucci Family FDN Announces Teaching Artist Residency Connecting African American Art History with Paterson Schools
Cincinnati.com | November 5, 2026

MONTHLY CALENDAR REMINDERS

November 13 . . . . . 1st Marking Period Ends
November 25 . . . . . 1:00 PM Student/1:20 PM Staff Dismissal
Novmeber 26-27 . . . . . .Thanksgiving - District Closed

Full 2026-2027 School Calendar Here

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

The **Board of Education Regular Meeting** will take place virtually on Monday, November 16. 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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We welcome your submissions on school and district-related news.
Submit stories and photos by using our **Newsletter Submissions** form.
This form can be found on the Communications Hub at www.paterson.k12.nj.us

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

Aida E. Rosario, MBA | Director of Communications
Lorraine Gonzales | Confidential Communications Assistant
Peter Long | Supervisor of Special Projects and Communications