

The Paterson Education Fund (PEF) is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to stimulate community action for change so that the Paterson Public Schools ensure that all Paterson children achieve high standards.

**Goals**

**\*To build our community's civic capacity to support monitor and advocate education reform.**

**\*To educate and enable community leadership to understand and act on changing educational needs.**

**\*To provide a forum for the community to effectively participate in the decision making processes concerning education**

Paterson Education Fund is a member of the Public Education Network (PEN), founded in 1991. The mission of PEN is to build public demand and mobilize resources for quality education for *all* children through a national constituency of local education funds and individuals. The Paterson Education Fund is a founding member.

**Paterson Education Fund**  
 152 Market St. Suite 208  
 Paterson, NJ 07505  
 973-881-8914 voice  
 973-881-8059 Fax  
[www.paterson-education.org](http://www.paterson-education.org)

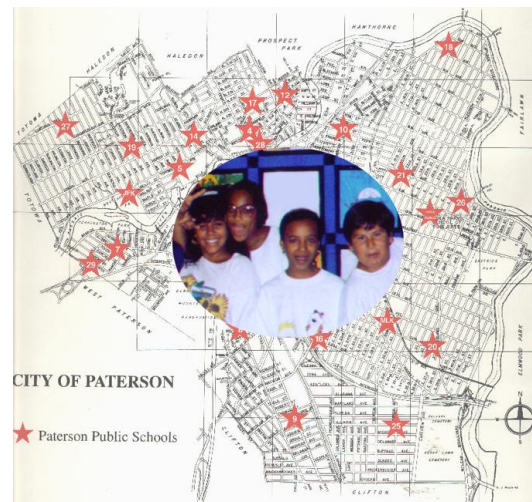
Public involvement  
 Public education  
 Public benefit

**Searching for a Super Super**

As the citizens of Paterson come together to make recommendations to the Governor about a new State Superintendent, we need to consider how we can be successful.

Dr. Ron Epps, formerly Paterson's Stupski Foundation team leader, and Dr. Clement Price, chair of the Newark Superintendent Search Committee, shared with us the following ideas:

1. If Paterson is to prosper, our schools must succeed -for all our children.
2. We are where we are. We might not think that this is the best process, but it's the one we have. Make it succeed.
3. We must use our diversity as a strength or else we will be defeated by our differences. Look for common ground.
4. The job of the search committee is not only to identify the best candidates, but to create a platform for success for our next superintendent. Can we create the conditions for 6 years of success?



5. **This superintendent search is about all of our children.**

PEF will continue to follow the process closely and post materials to our website, [www.paterson-education.org](http://www.paterson-education.org), under the Learn tab.

**Paterson Education Fund  
Board of Directors**

Jamie Dykes, Chair

Greater Paterson Chamber of  
Commerce

Librada Sanchez, Vice Chair

Women's Center,  
William Paterson University

Susan White, Treasurer

McKinley, White and Co.

Karen Brown

Passaic County Clerk

Dino Callegari, Wells Fargo

Guinera Curry,

William Paterson University

Rahsonna Smith Elder,

Inner Faith Performing Arts Center

Evangeline Gomez, Esq

Eddie Gonzalez, NJCDC

Karen Mayo-Hogan,

Parent

Andre Sayegh,

Paterson Alliance

Isa Suqi,

NextWave Web LLC

Jerry Traille, State Farm

Don Vanderbeck, Jr.

CJ Vanderbeck and Son

Dr. Dennis Clancy,

ex-officio

Interim State Superintendent

**PEF Staff**

Irene Sterling, President

Rosie Grant, Program Director

Anna Villalongo, Associate Director  
of Outreach

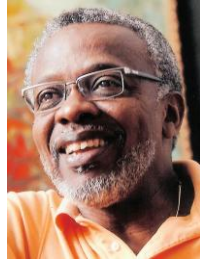
Linda Reid, Office Manager

Sam Hinds, Family Friendly Computer  
Trainer

Shandora Balmer, Intern

# Who is the Search Committee?

**Dr. Leslie Agard-Jones**, resident of Paterson; E-mail:



[laj2733@gmail.com](mailto:laj2733@gmail.com); Employment: Retired, Dean of the College of Education and Professor, William Paterson University; Consultant ; Education: Doctorate in Higher Education Administration; Family: Wife, and 2 kids both living out of state; Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Served as Liaison to the Board, appointed by State Commissioner for several years; Civic Involvements As program officer for the Taub Foundation

in Paterson, have worked with many non-profits in the city. Have you attended any school board meetings? At least 4 of the last 6. Family members who work for the Paterson Public Schools: None. Do you or your company hold any contracts with the Paterson Public Schools or the NJ Department of Education? None

**Herman Badillo**, New York, NY; Work Phone: (212) 732-9000 Ext. 4125; E-mail: [hbadillo@triallaw1.com](mailto:hbadillo@triallaw1.com) \* (\*the character after the letter "w" is number "1"); Employment: Of Counsel at Sullivan Papain Block McGrath



& Cannavo, P.C.; Education: Bachelor of Business Administration, City College of New York; Juris Doctor, Brooklyn Law School; Family: Married; Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: None; Civic Involvements: President, 100 Hispanic Men; Have you attended any school board meetings? None. Family members who work for the Paterson Public Schools: None. Do you or your company hold any contracts with the Paterson Public Schools or the NJ Department of Education? None

**Zynide "Z" Banks**, resident of Paterson; Work phone: 973- 321-2299; Fax: 973- 321- 2298; E-mail:



[Zbanks@paterson.k12.nj.us](mailto:Zbanks@paterson.k12.nj.us); Employment: Paterson Public Schools, School Nurse; Education: MA Educational Leadership, Professional Registered Nurse (RN), Professional in Human Resources (PHR- inactive); Family: Mother of two, Grandmother of three; Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Employer for

15 years; Past Facilitator – School Management Team – EHS, Paterson Education Association (PEA), Executive Board member, Affirmative Action Representative, Senior Class Advisor – Panther Academy; Civic Involvements: Executive Board of Directors, Passaic County Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies; American Cancer Society (Breast Cancer Awareness and Relay for Life); Coordinator (Panther Academy & CUMAC-ECHO) End Hunger in our Community; Committee member – School Breakfast initiative (CUMAC-ECHO) Coordinator (Panther Academy & Prison Ministries) Angel Tree Project. Have you attended any school board meetings? Three. Family members who work for the Paterson Public Schools: daughter.

# Who is the Search Committee?



**Jose Luis Castro**, Home phone: 973-523-5190, E-mail: [josecastro@optonline.net](mailto:josecastro@optonline.net); Employment: Pastor of Iglesia Bautista Central, Education: Master Divinity and Master in Sacred Theology; Family: Wife and three Children. Family members who work for the Paterson Public Schools: None; Do you or your company hold any contracts with the Paterson Public Schools or the NJ Department of Education? None.

**Dr. Linda Crescione**, resident of Glen Rock; Work Phone: 973 321-009; E-mail:



[crescion@paterson.k12.nj.us](mailto:crescion@paterson.k12.nj.us); Employment: Principal, CJR # 9, Paterson Public Schools; Education: BA – William Paterson U, Elementary Education; MA –Montclair State U, Pupil Personnel Services; Ed.D – Seton Hall University, Educational Leadership; Family: single; Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Educator with Paterson Public Schools for 37 years. During this time, I have held the positions of classroom teacher; Vice Principal; Principal of PS # 17 and for the past 13 years, I have served as Principal of CJR # 9. Civic Involvements: PEF; Have you attended any school board meetings? Yes. Family

members who work for the Paterson Public Schools: None. Do you or your company hold any contracts with the Paterson Public Schools or the NJ Department of Education? None

**Norberto Curitomai**, Express Shuttle, 96 Barclay Street, Paterson, NJ 07503; Work Phone: 973 881-



9133; Fax: 973 881-1002; E-mail: [norberto@expressshuttle.com](mailto:norberto@expressshuttle.com); Employment: President of Airport Service Corp; Education: High School; Family: Wife and 5 children; Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: None; Civic Involvements: Founder of Peruvian American Political Action Committee Inc.. Have you attended any school board meetings? None. Family members who work for the Paterson Public Schools: None; Do you or your company hold any contracts with the Paterson Public Schools or the NJ Department of Education? None

**Maritza Davila**, resident of Paterson; Work phone: 973-684-6307; Fax: 973-684-6778; E-mail:



[mdavila@pccc.edu](mailto:mdavila@pccc.edu). Employment Assistant Director of Admissions, Passaic County Community College; Education: Public school #20 class of 85, Eastside High School class of 89, Monmouth University, Bachelor of Arts, Communications - Public Relations/Journalism & Fairleigh Dickinson University MAS, Masters in Administrative Science. Family: 1 son. Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: 14 years of experience working with our Paterson children through the admissions process for Passaic County Community College. Provided workshops for parents and high school seniors to promote the importance of higher

education. Participant of the Its Your life 411 programs in Passaic County, a pro-active role-playing program that teaches 7th & 8th graders decision making skills, character education, consequences of high risk behaviors and how to access services from different agencies in the county. Civic Involvements: Past board president for Community Action for Social Affairs, INC. (CASA). Volunteer in the food pantry as well as the Christmas toy drive. Member of the National Education Association (NEA), The Middle States Association of Collegiate Registrars and officers of Admission (MSACROA), the Passaic County School Counselors Association (PCSCA) and the New Jersey Association for College Admissions Counseling (NJACAC). Have you attended any school board meetings? Yes. Family members who work for the Paterson Public Schools: None; Do you or your company hold any contracts with the Paterson Public Schools or the NJ Department of Education? None.

# Who is the Search Committee?

**Bob Guarasci**, NJCDC, 32 Spruce Street, Paterson, NJ 07501; Work phone: 973-413-1600; E-mail:



[rguarasci@njcdc.org](mailto:rguarasci@njcdc.org); Employment: President, NJ Community Development Corporation (NJCDC); Education: BA, George Washington University; Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Work in partnership with the school district operating an Abbott preschool, Garrett Morgan Academy, and after-school programs; Civic Involvements: President of Paterson Alliance, Board member of Passaic County CASA and Northern NJ Maternal-Child Health Consortium; Have you attended any school board meetings: 3 of the last 4; Family members who work for the Paterson Public Schools: None. Do you or your company hold any contracts with the Paterson Public Schools or the NJ Department of Education? Yes

**Evangeline Gomez, Esq.**; E-mail: [eglesq@yahoo.com](mailto:eglesq@yahoo.com); Employment: Attorney; Education: The Ohio



State University, B.A., Rutgers School of Law- Newark, J.D.; Family: The Cordero/Gomez Family; Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Activities through Paterson Education Fund; Civic Involvements: Paterson Education Fund (PEF), Vice President, 2005; Chair, 2006-2008; Trustee; Hyacinth AIDS Foundation, Trustee 2005-2007; St. Paul's CDC, former Trustee. Have you attended any school board meetings? Yes. Family members who work for the Paterson Public Schools: None. Do you or your company hold any contracts with the Paterson Public Schools or the NJ Department of Education? None.

**Wendy Guzman**, resident of Paterson, Home phone: 973-689-6575; E-mail:



[wendy@wendyguzman.com](mailto:wendy@wendyguzman.com); Employment: Full time mom; Education: Passaic County Technical Institute; Bergen Community College; Family: Married with one child. Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Volunteered in day care centers with Mu Sigma Upsilon Sorority. Mentor a group of students. Civic Involvements: Member, Sociedad Pro-Desarrollo De Ranchete, Dominican Political Representation (DOPOR), ACORN, Vi Queen of Dominican State Parade and Festival NJ 2004. Certified tax preparer. Certified lead technician. Licensed Notary Public. Have you attended any school board meetings? Yes. Family members who work for the Paterson Public Schools: None.

Do you or your company hold any contracts with the Paterson Public Schools or the NJ Department of Education? None.

**Jonathan Hodges**, M.D., resident of Paterson; Work Phone: (973) 321-0980; Education: Rensselaer



Polytechnic Institute, Wake Forest University, Bowman Gray School of Medicine; Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: EHS School Management team. Board Member, Two time Board President, Past Lecturer; Civic Involvements: Past member of Paterson Education Fund, Board of YMCA; Have you attended any school board meetings? All of them; Family members who work for the Paterson Public Schools: None. Do you or your company hold any contracts with the Paterson Public Schools or the NJ Department of Education? None.

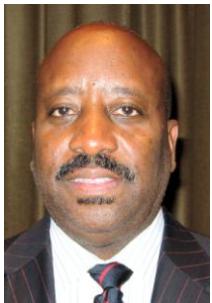
# Who is the Search Committee?

**Errol Kerr**, resident of Paterson; Home Phone: 973-742-7042; E-mail: [ekerr@gloryusa.com](mailto:ekerr@gloryusa.com);



Employment: Glory USA Inc. Logistic Department Supervisor; Education: B.Sc. Business Administration, Ramapo College; Married with two children and a grandson; Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Member of the J F K HS Home School Council; Vice President of the Paterson Board of Education; Civic Involvements: VP of the Caribbean Empowerment Program of NJ, Member of the NAACP. Have you attended any school board meetings? All of them; Family members who work for the Paterson Public Schools : None. Do you or your company hold any contracts with the Paterson Public Schools or the NJ Department of Education? None

**Rev. Dr. James A. Kuykendall**, resident of Paterson, Work Phone: 973-278-4390, E-mail:



[agapecministries@aol.com](mailto:agapecministries@aol.com); Employment ; Senior Pastor, Agape Christian Ministries; Chief Chaplain, Passaic County Jail; Education: Montclair State, Ramapo State College, Hawthorne Gospel Bible Institute, Shiloh Theological Seminary – Doctor of Divinity, New Direction Inc. – Drug/Alcoholic Counseling, Mason Kelly Washington Religious Training Institute – Professional Chaplain; Family: Wife, daughter and grandson; Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Paterson Pastors Workshop Adopt-A-School Initiative; Civic Involvements: President, Paterson Pastors Workshop; Municipal Leader, Paterson Democratic Committee; Vice President, Paterson Democratic Club; Chaplain, Paterson Police Department; Have you attended any school board meetings? Yes; Family members who work for the Paterson Public Schools:

None. Do you or your company hold any contracts with the Paterson Public Schools or the NJ Department of Education? No

**Kenneth Morris**, resident of Paterson, Work Phone: 973-720-9171; E-mail: [morrisk@sjhmc.org](mailto:morrisk@sjhmc.org);



Employment: Director of Governmental Affairs, St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center; Education: BFA., Cleveland Institute of Art and Case Western Reserve Medical School; M.A. Montclair State University and Master of Health Care Administration, Seton Hall University. Family: Two daughters; Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Have been actively involved with the Board of Education and schools throughout my career. Civic Involvements: Councilman-at-Large, 2002 to the present; Council President, 2005-08; Chair, Home Care Options Visiting Nurse Service; past Chair, Paterson Education Fund; Board member of Paterson YMCA, Greater Paterson Chamber of Commerce and United Way of

Passaic County ; Adjunct professor at William Paterson University. Have you attended any school board meetings? Yes. Family members who work for the Paterson Public Schools: Sister. Do you or your company hold any contracts with the Paterson Public Schools or the NJ Department of Education? None

**Nina Odatella**, E-mail: [Nodatalla@paterson.k12.nj.us](mailto:Nodatalla@paterson.k12.nj.us); Employment: Teacher, International High School,



Paterson Public Schools; Education: MA in Education, BA in History; Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Social Studies teacher at the International High School for last 5 years. Have you attended any school board meetings? Yes. Family members who work for the Paterson Public Schools: None. Do you or your company hold any contracts with the Paterson Public Schools or the NJ Department of Education? None

# Who is the Search Committee?

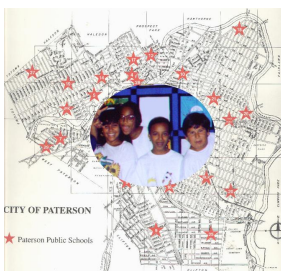
**Linda G. Smith**, resident of Paterson; Work Phone: 973-754-4233; Employment: Supervisor of Case Management, St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center; Education: Bachelor of Arts + 15 credits towards Masters; Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Advocate; Multi-Ethnic Task Force (Co-Chair); Community Advisory Committee; Past Member Cultural Diversity Committee; Civic Involvements: President, Paterson Branch NAACP; Past President & Current Chairperson of Dr. Betty Shabazz Delta Academy (a mentoring program) for Paterson Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Member, Calvary Baptist Church -Sunday School Teacher – Choir Member – Chair, Social Ministries; Member Mayor Task Force for UNCF; Member, Paterson-Passaic/Bergen Counties HIV Planning Council; Member, Passaic County Section of NCNW; Commissioner, Passaic County Board of Social Services (Chairwoman); Treasurer, African Heritage Parade Committee, Inc.; Have you attended any school board meetings? Yes. Family members who work for the Paterson Public Schools: Niece and Nephew (Teachers); Sister (Instructional Assistant). Do you or your company hold any contracts with the Paterson Public Schools or the NJ Department of Education? None Known



**Willa Spicer**, Deputy Commissioner, NJ Department of Education, Trenton, 609-984-5069.



**Willa Mae Taylor**, resident of Paterson; Home phone: 973-279-369; Employment: full time volunteer; Education: Graduate PS#8, Central High School in Paterson, Graduate of FDU, B.S. in Elementary Ed., Graduate-M.A. in Admin. & Supervision from WPU; Family: widow, 3 children, 11 grandchildren and 1 great-grand daughter; Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: P.T.A. member, HSCC member, participant in youth fairs, currently a member of Paterson Bd. of Ed- former scoutmaster, NSW; Civic involvements: youth leader, former girls scout leader, YMCA, former Bd. member of YMCA, youth leader at Central Pres. Church, member of NAACP, NCNW, Vice President of AARP Chapter #15, GAP member, HESC member, convener for presbyteries for NJ, member of United Presbyterian church, mentor at WPU. Have you attended any school board meetings? All of them; Family members who work for the Paterson Public Schools: None. Do you or your company hold any contracts with the Paterson Public Schools or the NJ Department of Education? None



**This report is provided as a public service by the Paterson Education Fund. Committee members were asked to fill out a questionnaire. Some members did not provide answers to all the questions, so that information is not available.**