

Paterson

EDUCATION

Fund Report

March 15, 2006

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). PEN is a national association of [local education funds](#) (LEFs) and [individuals](#) working to advance public school reform in low-income communities across our country.

The Paterson Education Fund is a founding member.

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Public involvement. Public education. Public benefit.

An Educated Voter's Guide to Paterson's School Board Elections

Can the Paterson School Board return us to local control?

Finally, we have a new law, known as NJQSAC, which includes a roadmap for how the State of New Jersey ends state takeovers. Before the end of the year, the members of the Paterson Board of Education may actually control parts of the Paterson Public School system.

But we cannot return to full local control until the Board of Education proves that it can govern itself. That means acting within the ethics rules, working together as a Board, and demonstrating that members can hold each other and the district accountable for educating Paterson's children.

That makes your vote more important than ever before. On April 18, you will choose 3 Board members from among the 6 candidates. Vying for 3 three-year terms are Joseph Atallo, Errol S. Kerr, Augusto "Gus" Penaranda, Juan "Mitch Santiago, Willa Mae Taylor, and Luis Velez. Atallo, Santiago and Taylor currently hold seats on the board.

Successful candidates must be able to work with State Superintendent Glascoe, the other six board members: Brown, Hodges, Moody, Sayegh, Spagnola and Vergara.

Your vote counts.

Use it!

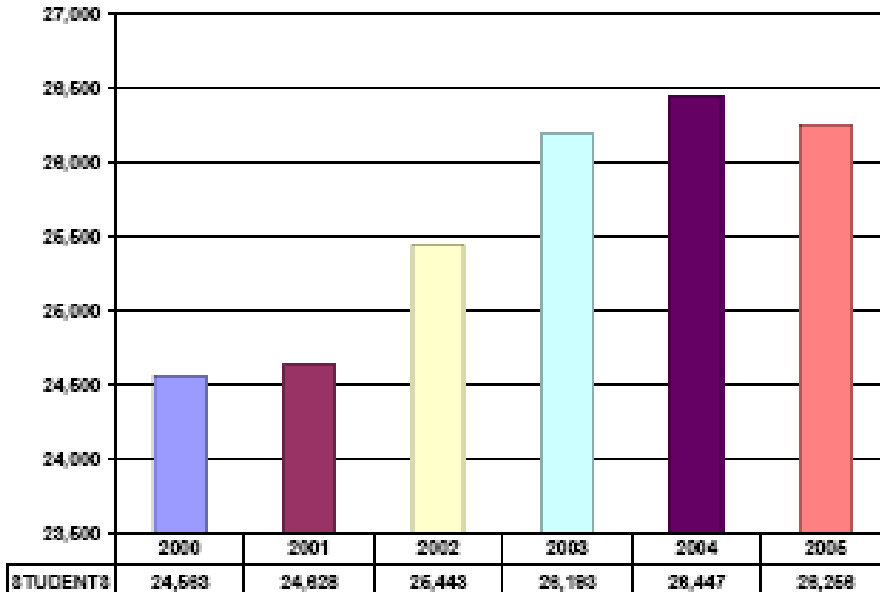
Put our children first

What Every Voter Should Know About Our Schools

1. Who attends the Paterson Public Schools?

➔ **More than 26,256 children attend the Paterson Public Schools.** According to the 2000 US Census, **more than 95%** of Paterson's children attend public schools. Paterson Public Schools have a tremendous responsibility to the children of Paterson.

District Profile: Student Enrollment



Male: 13,330

Female: 12,926

Latino: 14,524

Black: 9,687

White, non-Latino: 1,358

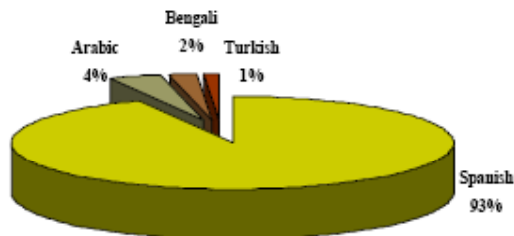
Asian, Pacific Islander: 650

Native American: 37

District Profile: Bilingual Education

Number of English Language Learners	4667
Percent of English Language Learners	17.8%

English Language Learners: Top Languages Spoken



Early Childhood Education

	Enrollment					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
3 year olds	767	1116	1432	1527	1580	1597
4 year olds	995	1241	1697	1802	1849	1927
Kindergarten	1970	2014	2044	2088	2059	2043

District Profile: Special Education

Number of Classified Students	4240
Number of Classified Students in District	3763
Number of Classified Students in Out-of-District Placements	477
Percentage of Students Receiving Special Education Services	16.1%

What Every Voter Should Know About Our Schools

6. What does the oath of office mean?

Every member of the Board of Education takes the following oath of office:

“I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the governments established in the United States and in this state, under the authority of the people, so help me God.

I do further solemnly swear that I will impartially and justly perform all the duties of the office of according to the best of my ability. So help me God.”

While school board members are elected by local citizens, they are responsible to the State of New Jersey. Under the New Jersey Constitution, they are responsible for providing a “thorough and efficient” education. Our State Supreme Court has interpreted that to mean an education that makes them competitive in the market place and able to be good citizens.

7. How do I get more information?

There is lots of information about the Paterson Public Schools on the following websites:

www.paterson.k12.nj.us contains local information. Great new information is posted there

www.state.nj.us/education contains all the rules governing our schools. See "NJ State board of Education," then "NJ Administrative Code ," then 'Proposed Rules to find the NJQSAC regulations.

www.nj.com/news/reportcard for information on school performance for the entire state.

www.edlawcenter.com for information on the Abbott requirements. You can sign up for email updates.

For further information, call Irene Sterling at the Paterson Education Fund, 974-881-8914.



School Board Candidate Forum

Thursday, April 6, 2006, JF Kennedy HS TV Studio 6:30 PM.

Co-sponsored by the



Paterson Branch

You are invited to attend.

Cablecast the following week.

Dates to remember:

March 30: Public Hearing on the 2006-2007 Budget, JFK HS Auditorium, 6 pm

April 26: Reorganization meeting of the Paterson Board of Education, 6:30 pm at JFK HS

Current Powers of the Paterson Board of Education 2005

ACTIONS OF THE BOARD MAY BE OVERRIDDEN BY THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT.

The State Superintendent continues to convene, schedule and set the agenda of the Board of Education.

Fiscal Matters	Curriculum Matters	Legal Matters
Adoption of Budget	Curriculum evaluation schedule adoption	Initiation of litigation
Awarding of bids	Curriculum articulation	Settlement of litigation
Awarding of any contracts	School based plans	Purchase/rental /lease of property
Approval of appropriation adjustments	Gifted & Talented programs/ services	
Comprehensive Maintenance Plans	High School Core Proficiencies	Items NOT voted upon by the Board
Annual Health & Safety Inspections	Guidance Programs	1. All personnel issues
Monthly bills and claims	Counseling program	2. Outside Legal counsel
Receipt of financial reports	Substance abuse prevention	3. Employee/labor contracts
Audit	Textbook adoption	4. Adoption of salary guides
Facilities master plan	Educational consultant contracts	
Approval of non-curricular grants	Approval of curriculum grants	
Budget transfers	Tuition & out of district placements	
Building change orders	School calendar	

Paterson Board of Education members 2004-2005

Attendance record for 10 workshop meetings and 10 regular meetings, May – February

Data on attendance is taken from official Board of Education minutes.

Term ends 2008	Workshop [10]	Regular [10]	Term ends 2006	Workshop [10]	Regular [10]
Chauncey Brown	8	10	Joseph Atallo	10	10
Jonathan Hodges	10	10	Juan "Mitch" Santiago	9	10
Lawrence Spagnola	9	10	Willa Mae Taylor	10	10
Term ends 2007			In 2007, PEF will report on board members' attendance at special meetings, committee meetings and Board "forwards," as those meetings will have official minutes.		
Al Moody	10	10			
Andre Sayegh	10	10			
Daniel Vergara	10	10			

School Board Election Day is April 18, 2006

Put our children first.

Paterson School Board Candidates 2006

The following information was provided by the candidates. Where there is no information, the candidate did not respond. PEF has not verified the information but publishes it as a public service.

Address questions directly to the candidates or to Irene Sterling, PEF at 973-881-8914.

Candidates for three year terms April 2006-April 2009. Vote for three.

Joseph Atallo, 100 Katz Ave.; Home phone: 973-595-7381; Work Phone: 973-321-0980; Employment: Columbia University, Coordinator, Management Institute; Lived in Paterson: 11 years; Doctorate, Columbia University, Master's, Columbia University, Bachelor's, Saint Peter's University; Single; Past and Current Civic Involvements: Elected member, Paterson Board of Education, (2000-Present), Greater Paterson YMCA Board of Directors; Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months: all meetings. Three major issues: 1. Educational accountability for students. 2. Financial accountability for taxpayers. 3. Active parent involvement.



gloryusa.com;
Paterson: 26 years;
children and a
Member of the J F K
Empowerment
attended in the last six
Schools Model- The
problems we are facing
those experiences into
Development Program. We must find new pathways to stimulate both the intellectual and social development of our children. This is achievable if we make sure that our children get the best instruction at the earliest stages of their academic and social development The fact is we can no longer sit and wait for our children to start dropping out of high school to look for answers.
3. Strengthening the instructional quality of the education offering to our children by financially rewarding those teachers who consistently perform above standard.

Errol S. Kerr, 216 East 30th Street; Home Phone: 973-742-7042; E-mail: ekerr@gloryusa.com;
Employment: Glory USA Inc. Logistic Department Supervisor; Lived in B.Sc. Business Administration, Ramapo College; Married with two grandson; Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: HS Home School Council; Civic Involvements: VP of the Caribbean Program of NJ, Member of the NAACP; Number of Board meetings months: One (watch others on cable); Three major issues: 1. Community present system has failed in scope to address some of the fundamental in the education our children. It is therefore time we seriously look at other success stories and incorporate some of the proven workable aspects of ours. 2. Put in place a more vigorous Early Childhood Education and Development Program. We must find new pathways to stimulate both the intellectual and social development of our children. This is achievable if we make sure that our children get the best instruction at the earliest stages of their academic and social development The fact is we can no longer sit and wait for our children to start dropping out of high school to look for answers.
3. Strengthening the instructional quality of the education offering to our children by financially rewarding those teachers who consistently perform above standard.



Augusto Penaranda, "Gus", 39 East 39th Street, Apt. 5G; Home Phone: 973-390-6561; Work Phone: 973-247-8113; Fax: 609-656-5035; Email: gpucci@aol.com; Employment: Regional Communications Officer, Office of Diversity, Small Business, Gov't & Community Affairs for the New Jersey Schools Construction Corp.; Lived in Paterson: entire life; B.A. in political Science, William Paterson University of New Jersey, Passaic County Technical & Vocational H.S., Ps #5, PS #15, Dale Ave School and Memorial Day Nursery; Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools; Former member PS #10, School Management Team, Civic Involvements: Member of the Young Alumni Association of WPU, Elected member for the-Peruvian Consulate Executive Committee (2001), Candidate for the Paterson BOE (2001,2002,2003); Former Board Member, Hispanic Multi-Purpose Service Center, Eastside Neighborhood Association, Paterson Taxpayers Association, Current Commissioner on the Paterson Taskforce, Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months: 2; Three major issues: 1. Board Governance- In the past few years the Paterson BOE has elected some commissioners that have started to move the Board toward the right direction. The Paterson BOE is now starting to discuss, develop and implement policies that will help to ensure that the Board has the ability to address and take action if and when it becomes necessary. 2. Local Control- returning to local control is easier said than done. It is not just about developing new policies, test scores or electing the "right" Commissioners, it is also about daily problem solving within the schools, properly understanding the "educational" needs with regards to new and renovated facilities and running a "financially" efficient school system. 3. Problem solving not Problem Watcher- for years too many issues have gone undressed unless they appear in the newspaper or it is so severe that the community and administration have to get involved.



Juan Santiago, "Mitch," 81 George St. Home phone: 973-296-3474; Work Phone: 973-225-5343, 973-321-1488; Employment: Passaic County Sheriff's Department Sheriff's Investigator and deputy chief inspector of Department of Public Works; Lived in Paterson: 25 years; GED, Passaic County Police Academy, 2005; Father of 9 and 1 step-son; Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: on the board 7 years, served as President/Vice-President twice, named father of



the year by 1 of the Paterson Public Schools, reading to the children Dr. Seuss Birthday; Civic Involvements: (President) Roberto Clemente Memorial Committee, Toy Drives for Christmas, served as an aide for Assemblyman Steele (Past), member NAACP, Speziale Out Reach Foundation. Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months: 6 regular meetings; three major issues: 1. Staying focused to bring us back to local control. 2. Fighting for the rights of the children and building more schools. 3. Keeping the citizen's of Paterson informed of what's going on in closed doors and fighting for inside school suspension.

Willa Mae Taylor, 410 East 28th Street; Home phone: 973-279-3691; Fax: 973-279-2088; Employment: full time



volunteer; Length of residence in Paterson: 51 years; 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; Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months: 6 meetings; three major issues: 1. Lack of coordination- Co-ordination of "real" efforts by our Board of Ed., city, county and state government to provide quality education for all Paterson children.

(Finance, facilities, faculty, environment). 2. Parental Involvement- parents are to be involved from day one until the day of graduation from high school. Parents are to ensure constantly to make sure their child (ren) is in or on the proper learning level for each grade. Parents are to ask if not on level then why not? Then, how can we get them on level? 3. Monitoring of dates at all levels-District Administrator Plan, local curriculum- education plan, facilities plan for now and future needs, safety plan, and human resources. Know the total picture and learn the needs, not just our wants.

Luis Velez, 205 Michigan Avenue; Home phone: 973-345-2934; Work Phone: 973-417-7135; Email:



luis_a_velez2004@yahoo.com; Employment: Public Safety Officer, I.P.C. Willowbrook Mall; Lived in Paterson: 17 years; H.S. graduate, graduated on Theology and religion, New York Theology and Religion University, A.A., Loss Prevention in Criminal Justice; Married, 5 children, 3 children all studying in Paterson district; Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools; active parent, Home School Council, SLC Eastside High School; Civic Involvements: United Way of Passaic County volunteer, member of Community Emergency Response Team and the Puerto Rican Parade, Paterson member of Latino Alliance, Passaic Chapter; Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months: all; Three major issues: Consistently working for the benefit and education of our children, quality education, family support and community engagement, youth development, child safety, and welfare. Guarantee proper security, maintenance and construction of school facilities, supporting special education and bilingual program. Create programs to reduce and eliminate the drop out rate in

our schools. Create an incentive program for our entire student body in the district. Create a friendly atmosphere. Demonstrate that the Board can govern to move forward to local control. Unite all persons of Paterson for the benefit of our children.