

# Paterson

# EDUCATION

## Fund Report

March 16, 2005

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

**Paterson is moving closer to local control. Soon, the members of the Paterson Board of Education will actually control parts of the Paterson Public School system. The new accountability system [NJQSAC] that Commissioner of Education Librera proposed last year is moving through the legislature. NJQSAC includes a roadmap for how the State of New Jersey ends state takeovers. [See inside for more details.] When both the NJ Legislature and State Board of Education act on the NJ QSAC proposal, Paterson could regain some local powers in 2006.**

**That makes your vote more important than ever before. On April 19, you will choose 4 Board members from among the 10 candidates. Vying for 3 three-year terms are Chauncey Brown, Vivian English, Jonathan Hodges, Errol S. Kerr, Erik Lowe, Carmen Rodriquez, Lawrence Spagnola and Luis Velez. Vying for a one-year term are Carmine Pellosie and Juan Santiago. Brown, Hodges and Santiago currently hold seats on the board.**

**Successful candidates must be able to work with State Superintendent Clancy, the new State Superintendent who will be appointed by the Commissioner later this spring, and the other five board members: Atallo, Moody, Sayegh, Taylor and Vergara.**

**Your vote counts  
Use it!  
Put our children first**

## 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.

<b>Fiscal Matters</b>	<b>Curriculum Matters</b>	<b>Legal Matters</b>
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	<b>Items NOT voted upon by the Board</b>
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 11 regular meetings, May – February

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

<b>Term ends 2005</b>	Workshop [10]	Regular [11]	<b>Term ends 2006</b>	Workshop [10]	Regular [11]
Chauncey Brown	7	8	Joseph Atallo	10	11
Jonathan Hodges	10	11	William "Bill" Kline	Resigned in Dec	
Juan "Mitch" Santiago	1	11	Willa Mae Taylor	10	11
<b>Term ends 2007</b>			The Paterson Board of Education does not currently have any appointed members.		
Al Moody	10	10			
Andre Sayegh	10	11			
Daniel Vergara	2	9			

## School Board Election Day is April 19, 2005

# Put our children first

# On the Long Road Back to Local Control: What's Next?

**Building a New Road. Finally.** On May 3, 2004, Commissioner Librera's recommendations were introduced as bills in the NJ State Legislature. The recommendations are called NJQSAC or NJ Quality Single Accountability Continuum. They align the requirements of No Child Left Behind, Abbott and the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards to lessen the administrative burden and focus on student success. See Commissioner Librera's proposal on line at [www.state.nj.us/education](http://www.state.nj.us/education).

The changes Commissioner Librera has recommended require action from two governing bodies. The NJ State Legislature must pass a new law in order to change the requirements of state operation [18A:7A] as envisioned in NJQSAC. You can find the bills on the NJ State Legislature website, [www.njleg.state.nj.us/bills](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bills). The Assembly bill is A2643 and the Senate, S1431. When they were introduced in May the bills were identical. However, there have been differences in the two bills. When the Assembly and the Senate finally vote, the bills must be identical so that the new law can be signed by the Governor.

Once the Governor signs NJQSAC, the NJ Board of Education must act to change the regulations that govern the monitoring system [6A:30]. All these changes could be in place by September of 2005.

## What kind of changes to the law are being discussed?

**Governance options:** The community would vote for one of these after the return to local control. The bills differ on the timeline of the required vote.

Type of district	Type I	Type II	Other alternatives have been eliminated from the bills.
Who Serves?	Board Appointed by the Mayor	Elected Board- all at large	

**Choosing a Superintendent:** A district returning to local control may hire the current State Superintendent or begin a search for a new Superintendent.

Under current rules for state operation	New rules: Under partial control	New rules: Under full state control
State Superintendent appointed by the Commissioner of Education	Commissioner could leave the local Superintendent in place or appoint a State Superintendent. Commissioner will embed a Highly Skilled Professional to work in areas of critical need.	Commissioner could leave the local Superintendent in place or appoint a State Superintendent. Commissioner will embed a Highly Skilled Professional to work in areas of critical need.

**Decisions about operations-curriculum, legal, finance, personnel:**

<b>Under current rules for state operation</b>	<b>New rules: Under partial control</b>	<b>New rules: Under full state control</b>
State Superintendent has full control for first years; Advisory board for 4 years	Local board remains in place. New additional BOE members may be appointed by the Commissioner.	State District Superintendent may be appointed. New additional BOE members may be appointed by the Commissioner
Sequentially, curriculum, legal and finance are voted upon by the Board of Education in an advisory capacity. State Superintendent has a veto over all actions of the BOE.	Performance is based on a set of benchmarks with periodic assessments. Highly Skilled Professional appointed to work in areas of critical need.	Performance is based on a set of benchmarks with periodic assessments. Highly Skilled Professional appointed to work in areas of critical need.  Commissioner retains broad powers to intervene.

**Funding**

<b>Under current rules for state operation</b>	<b>New Rules</b>
Paterson receives funding under the Abbott remedy; no special funding comes with state operation.	No change. Abbott funding remains in place.

As these proposals are considered by the Legislature and the State Board of Education, we should expect changes. Stay tuned for ways to be involved in the deliberations.



PEF Candidate Forum  
 Thursday, April 7, 2005.  
 JF Kennedy HS TV Studio 6:30 PM.  
 You are invited to attend.

Cablecast the following week.

Dates to remember:

March 23: Introductory meeting for the Facilities Advisory Board, 6 pm at the Hamilton Club

March 30: Public Hearing on the 2005-2006 Budget, TBA

April 27: Reorganization meeting of the Paterson Board of Education, 6:30 pm at JFK HS