

# Paterson Post

May 7, 2018

## State Board Approves Return to Local Control



It's official! The New Jersey State Board of Education voted on May 2<sup>nd</sup> to return the Paterson Public School District to local control. This was a very special day for our school district as this unanimous vote is a testament to the hard work taking place each and every day at our schools and district office.

Superintendent Eileen Shafer noted, "This vote is the result of the collaborative efforts among our principals, administrators, teachers, school staff, district staff and our parents and students. But we

also appreciate the extraordinary support of our Paterson community – which includes our district partners and all of our past and current Board members. We are all partners in our efforts to educate and prepare over 28,000 children for a bright future. But we cannot rest on our laurels because there is much more work to be done."

Paterson School Board President Oshin Castillo added, "We have waited over 26 years for the return of local control and now this day has finally come to fruition. I would like to acknowledge our past and current Board members who have worked tirelessly to prove that Paterson is fully committed to the education of our children. We have taken all of the appropriate steps to affirm that we should have control over our schools; and we are looking forward to working with our selected Superintendent and Acting Commissioner Repollet as we go through the transition process. I would like to thank all of our instructional staff for their hard work and dedication.

This Board stands committed in ensuring the best possible future for all of our children."



Next steps include a two-year transition plan that will soon be developed with input from all stakeholders. Congratulations to all on this important milestone!

## Celebrating Art at School 29

The collective "oohs and ahhs" came from parents, students, Superintendent Shafer and WPU Arts Integration Professor in Residence Myra Winter, as they strolled through the School 29 art room gallery that featured artworks from kindergarten – grade 4 students. Their projects included sculpture dogs matching a collage dog drawing, Laurel Burch cats, expressionistic sculpture heads, original CD booklet designs, optical illusions with various 3D shapes, futuristic building sculptures, landscapes, Rousseau jungle collages, paper relief sculptures and surrealistic hands of imagination. During March (Youth Art Month), several of Ms. Elson's (art teacher) student projects were selected as part of Paterson Museum's showcase. Two students were selected to be honored at William Paterson University, and their art will become a part of the permanent collection in the College of Education building. We are proud of all of the students' artwork and all the parents that helped support their children's creativity. Many thanks to our school administrators who support our art program!



## Around the District



**April 13, 2018** – JFK BTMF students attended a field trip to William Paterson University. This trip was the culminating meeting of the Russ Berrie Institute Sales Skills Program which students had attended throughout the winter. Students had been selected based on potential interest and ability in the sales industry. Through this program, students were able to gain valuable information on the sales industry, as well as interviewing and marketing skills. All students succeeded the program by completing a recorded mock interview.



**April 23, 2018** – JFK STEM's Green Club participated in the Great Falls Earth Day clean up and Science Expo. The Green Club's theme for this Earth Day event was upcycling which is the process of reusing discarded objects or materials to create a product of a higher quality or value than the original. The Green Club members helped visitors to make their own paper from used school paper.



**School 1** - The Paterson Music Project (Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts) had a great weekend with a performance at the CCSP Health Fair on Saturday and a field trip to Drew University to see the Discovery Orchestra on Sunday. PPS student participants were from Schools 1, 15, and 26.



**Breaking The Cycle Visits RPHS** – Speakers from the "Breaking the Cycle" organization shared their personal stories with students of Rosa Parks High School. This special assembly focused on heartbreak, peace and the role of forgiveness in one's life. Speakers gave their own life experiences and true stories -- from gang violence to teen suicide and spoke about how the power of forgiveness helped them resolve their personal conflicts and set them on a path to positive changes. This special event was organized by Student Assistance Coordinator, Ms. Ani Silvani.



**Spelling Bee Fever** – Schools are gearing up for the district's annual spelling bees which will take place May 31<sup>st</sup> (grades 1 & 2) and June 1<sup>st</sup> (grades 3 & 4). School 16's winners featured here are: Luis Ara (grade 1), Yunior Ortiz (grade 2), Daniela Mendez (grade 3), and Amanda Hernandez (grade 4).

## Upcoming Events

**May 10: NJ School Performance Report**

6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. in the cafeteria at the District Offices, 90 Delaware Avenue

**May 12: FREE Medical Services Fair**

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at 59 Mill Street Paterson NJ (Oasis - A Haven for Women and Children)

**May 16: Board of Education Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. at John F. Kennedy Educational Complex

**May 17: To Broadway - An Epic Vocal Music Showcase**

7:00 p.m. at Rosa L. Parks School of Fine & Performing Arts

**May 25: Early Dismissal**

1:00 p.m. Dismissal Students & Staff

**May 28: Memorial Day**

District Closed

Effective Academic Programs • Creating & Maintaining Healthy School Cultures  
Family & Community Engagement • Efficient & Responsive Operations