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DISTRICT OFFICIALS OPEN NEW GYMNASIUM AT PUBLIC SCHOOL NO. 2

Superintendent of Schools makes first basketball shot in new facility
Student basketball team, cheerleaders join in opening the first gym upgrade since 1921

PATERNON – Paterson Public Schools officials today held a special ceremony to open a new
gymnasium at Public School No. 2, marking the first upgrade of athletic facilities at the
elementary school since it was first constructed in 1921.

Principal Felisa Van Liew opened the ceremony by proclaiming the opening of the new gym.

“School 2 is now 99 years old,” said Van Liew, “and today we get to celebrate our brand new
gym.”

“As a former physical education and health teacher, I know the value of physical activity in a
child’s education. After all, exercise drives oxygen to the brain and an oxygenated brain is a
brain that is more able to think, to learn and to develop,” said Superintendent of Schools Eileen
F. Shafer. “And with a facility like this new gymnasium, we know our students are exercising in
a safe, well-lit and energy-efficient place.”

“I’ve been coming to School No. 2 for 30-plus years, and this new gym is like an injection of
hope into our community,” said N.J. State Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly. “This is what every
gym in the City of Paterson should look like.”

“This is 99 years overdue. But now we’re here,” said Board of Education Commissioner
Emanuel Capers. “Now when you come to a basketball ball game, a cheerleading match, or any
event, you can come to a gym that you can be proud of.”

“This is one of the many capital projects we’re going to do this year,” said the district’s
Operations Officer of Facilities. “We’re just so happy that we could complete this project for Ms.
Van Liew, the teachers, the students and our community.”

The total renovation of the gymnasium cost $280,870 and provided for the installation of new
wall pads and new flooring that has enough bounce to minimize the chances of injury. The
gym’s new lighting is made up of LED lights, which have greater energy-efficiency than
standard lighting. The gym’s new air-conditioning was installed as part of the district’s Energy
Saving Improvement Program, or ESIP.
Superintendent Shafer, a former physical education teacher and basketball coach, made the first basketball shot in the new gym, which was followed by a performance by the school’s cheerleading squad and drills by the school’s basketball team.