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PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION UNANIMOUSLY VOTES AGAINST PRIVATIZATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL AIDES

PATERSON – In a unanimous decision last night, the Paterson Public Schools Board of Education roundly rejected the idea of privatization of instructional aides. The 9-0 vote during the Board of Education’s retreat was on a motion to remove privatization of instructional aides from consideration as work continues to prepare the budget for the 2020-2021 school year.

“I am very pleased that Board President Simmons, Board Vice President Martinez and the rest of the board commissioners chose to lay to rest any concerns about the future of instructional aides in the district,” said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. “It’s not going to happen, and now we can all move on to the rest of the work of putting a balanced budget together.”

“Every single board commissioner recognizes the critical role that our instructional aides play in the education of our students. They provide the individualized support that is vital to our efforts to educate the whole child,” said Board of Education President Kenneth Simmons. “Many of our instructional aides are Patersonians, and we greatly appreciate their commitment to their work, to this district, to this community and most of all to the students who attend our schools.”

“It’s been said that a budget is a statement of priorities, and I am very glad that the budget for the next school year will hold instructional aides in high priority,” said Board Vice President Manuel Martinez. “Many times, it is the instructional aides who complete the educational experience for our scholars by providing the support that they need. With this issue off of the table, we will continue to look for ways to drive down costs that will not impact the classroom.”

“The Paterson Education Association is glad that the Board of Education and the Superintendent did the right thing and are not going to privatize these very important positions,” said John McEntee, President of Paterson Education Association. “I congratulate all parties for making a very wise decision.”

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