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Contact: Paul Brubaker
973-518-2298

SUPERINTENDENT SHAFER HIGHLIGHTS STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AS DISTRICT HEADS INTO HOMESTRETCH BEFORE LOCAL CONTROL

Shafer cites positive reading data, all-time high in IEP compliance as district heads into the second year of the two-year transition

PATERSON – With a pivotal year of scorecards and checkpoints ahead before local control can be restored to the district, Schools Superintendent Eileen F. Shafer highlighted student achievement and stressed the importance of drawing excellence from students upon the district’s principals, supervisors and vice principals.

“We have a journey in front of us and that journey is the next 12 months to bring back local control to this district and increase student performance,” said Shafer. “There’s no doubt in my mind that we will do that, and we will do that together. We will not fall short. Everyone clearly understands that it’s about teamwork.”

At the Passaic County Community College auditorium, Shafer presented a 56-page presentation that highlighted district accomplishments of the previous year and priorities for the year ahead.

Among the 2018-2019 accomplishments Shafer cited was the 19 percent increase in the number of students in grades K to 5 reading at or above grade level using the new districtwide reading program, and the 92 percent rate of compliance with students’ Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) – an all-time high for the district.

Also, 86 Paterson Public School students achieved a score of three or higher on Advanced Placement (AP) exams in 2019. A score of three or higher on the AP exams’ five-point grading scale is the threshold for many colleges to award college credit for a particular subject area.

“We are providing more opportunities for students to be successful than ever before,” she said.

The new alternative school, new AP courses and programs, and new Career Technical Education programs were among the new initiatives Shafer highlighted in her presentation.

The process of restoring local control will be marked by a series of three scorecards to be completed by the three state-appointed Highly-Skilled Professionals, or HSPs, Shafer said. The first scorecard will be submitted during the first week of September. The results of the scorecard will be presented to the state Board of Education in November. Two more similar cycles will follow, leading up to the state’s decision whether to restore local control by next September.
Dignitaries who spoke at the meeting were N.J. Commissioner of Education Lamont Repollet, Passaic County Superintendent Carlos Rodriguez, Paterson School Board President Oshin Castillo, Paterson School Board Vice President Nakima Redmon, N.J. State Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly, and Paterson Mayor Andre Sayegh.

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