DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT PRESENTS SCHOOL READINESS REPORT FOR 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

Peron cites progress in curriculum updates, facilities improvements

PATERSON – With students scheduled to return to school days away, Deputy Superintendent Susana Peron reported to the Board of Education the readiness of Paterson Public Schools to begin the 2019-2020 school year.

“It’s been hot this summer, but it’s also been busy,” Peron said. “The district’s administrative departments have been hard at work making preparations for the 2019-2020 school year. From the classrooms to the cafeterias to the bus routes, Paterson Public Schools has been preparing for a successful launch of the new school year.”

Among the highlights of Deputy Superintendent Peron’s report were:

**New Teacher Orientation** – New teachers are attending a four-day professional development program to learn about district procedures, policy and curriculum at International High School.

**Administrators of all Schools** – All principal and vice principal positions are filled.

**Staff Assignments September 5th and 6th** – All district staff will be assigned to a school to support the school’s administration during the first two days of the new school year. All Central Office staff have been assigned to support school buildings during the first two weeks of school to assist school administrators and staff, as well as families and students.

**Special Education** – Daily updated class rosters have been sent to principals. Transportation forms are being cross-referenced daily with the department. All in-district special education student notification letters were mailed to the students’ homes during the first week of August. This was done to support verification of address for students. Personal aide and instructional aide reassignments were completed as of August 16. Ten Child Study Teams have been reorganized and principals were notified.

**Curriculum and Instruction/Academics** – Work has been done to increase student achievement through curriculum development. Additionally, new Curriculum and Instruction initiatives are as follows:

- **Curriculum Updates** – English Language Arts, math, science, and social studies curriculum revisions have been completed.
- Embedding social and emotional learning, update of Amistad and holocaust mandates, updated pacing based on teacher feedback
• **Update to Young Men’s Academy Instructional Model/Newly Developed Curriculum**—pending board approval at the September Board of Education meeting
• Advanced Placement (AP) courses – Addition of AP Statistics and AP Seminar to the course catalog.
• **PSAT and SAT** – October 16th is the districtwide PSAT testing day for grades 8, 9, 10 and 11; high schools will have a half day while elementary schools will have full day.
• **NJSLA Strategies Implementation** – Supervisors will be updating the NJSLA Strategies to reflect the 2018-2019 Evidence Statement Analysis. The strategies will be shared with principals at their unit meetings.
• **K – 5 Reading Program Year 2** – Professional development will focus on the digital component of the program.
• **Math Intervention Expansion** – ALEKS will be expanded to grades 6 to 8; inclusive of SPED and bilingual students. High schools will continue to utilize the program. The intervention program will be monitored by the district and school administration to ensure fidelity to usage.
• **Five High School Certification Programs:**
  1. OSHA-10 Automotive Industry
  2. OSHA-10 Culinary Industry
  3. Quickbooks Accounting
  4. Microsoft Office Specialist
  5. TIPS Alcohol Safety
• **First year of the Amazon Grant through Edhesive** – Introduction to Computer Science as the first year course in a three course sequence. Central office developed the course and made it available to all high schools. Teachers have been trained. To date, there are six schools that have the course:
  o the three academies at Eastside High School
  o the School of Business, Technology, Marketing and Finance at Kennedy High School
  o International High School
  o Garrett Morgan Academy
PANTHER Academy is working on scheduling the course for this year.
• **Hour of Code** – Second year districtwide K to 12 for the purposes of introduction to coding
• **Professional Development** – Technology and Device implementation and Project Based Learning (PBL)

**Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)** – The district will be participating in the Community Eligibility Provision or CEP. This provision allows all students to participate in breakfast, lunch and after-school snack programs at no cost to them.

**Household Survey** – Some households can expect to receive a Department of Education Household Survey. This survey will be sent to parents from their child’s school. Staff will be onsite to assist parents in completing the survey on back to school night. The Household Survey
is critical for the district to maintain its level of state funding. Funding that is essential for providing your child with the best education possible.

**Supplies/Materials at all Schools** – Requisitions have been approved and supplies delivered to the schools. Elementary grades K to 12 have received all materials and books pertaining to the new reading program. Materials were purchased as a districtwide initiative. All math intervention resources have been ordered and are being delivered to high schools.

**Schedules** – All elementary school schedules are complete and high school schedules are in process.

**Assignment of Security** – All buildings are staffed for the opening of the school year. District security officer positions remain the same with no reduction in their headcount. Cameras have been added to two additional schools and the district is in the process of upgrading the camera system in one of the high schools. Codes will be assigned to the new administrators as they come back from vacation and the intention is to have them all installed by September 5th. The School Safety Plan for 2019/2020 has been updated and additional procedures for visitors in buildings have been added. The district has contacted Paterson Police Department to ensure that all school crossing guards are at their assigned posts. The district has also requested extra attention to the school corridors at Eastside High School and Kennedy High School.

**Transportation** – The Transportation Department had two bids for the upcoming school year. Letters were sent home for all students from the first bid. The letters from the last bid will be mailed August 16, 2019. Dry-runs will be completed by August 30th for all routes. A meeting with all contractors was held on August 13th to review expectations and procedures. The Transportation Department will continue to receive special education application and changes and update them daily. There are an estimated 325 routes for the school year.

**Facilities** - The Facilities Department is working on the summer projects list and concentrating on items that they have received material to complete. The following is a status of the work to be completed for school opening on September 5:

- Construction of the New Don Bosco Middle School started this month August.
- Science Labs – Phase I completed at Eastside High School gas energized at five labs
- Energy Savings Improvement Plan – Phase I completed
  - Valve and Pipe Insulation
  - Digital Controls
  - LED lighting
  - Solar/Security Film on windows
  - Energy Star Refrigerator Replacement
- Security Guard Booths at Kennedy High School are scheduled for first week of October 2019
- The elevated playground at Public School No. 9 is nearly complete
- The retaining wall at Public School No. 19 is complete
• The roof at Public School No. 19 is in design
• Auditorium seating at Public Schools No. 13 was completed on July 24. Public School No. 8’s auditorium seating is projected to be completed by the end of November.
• Fencing at Public Schools No. 3, No. 5, No. 6, No. 9, No. 12, No. 16 and Kennedy High School
• Wheelchair lift – Kennedy High School, Eastside High School, Rosa Parks High School
• Building envelope repair at Public Schools No. 5, No. 6, Roberto Clemente School, and Kennedy High School
• Flooring/Gym at Public School No. 2, No. 8, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School, Kennedy High School, Eastside High School

###