

Paterson

EDUCATION

Fund Report

November 17, 2008

The Paterson Education Fund (PEF) is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to stimulate community action for change so that the Paterson Public Schools ensure that all Paterson children achieve high standards.

Goals

*To build our community's civic capacity to support monitor and advocate education reform.

*To educate and enable community leadership to understand and act on changing educational needs.

*To provide a forum for the community to effectively participate in the decision making processes concerning education

Paterson Education Fund is a member of the Public Education Network (PEN), founded in 1991. The mission of PEN is to build public demand and mobilize resources for quality education for *all* children through a national constituency of local education funds and individuals. The Paterson Education Fund is a founding member.

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Public involvement
Public education
Public benefit

25th Anniversary Reflections

What will YOU celebrate?

What is your favorite milestone in PEF's 25 year history?

Is it the smile on the face of a child as she finds her name among 2,000 other children who read 50 books?

Is it the memory of your first computer, given for free by PEF's Family Friendly Computer program? Did Makeda or Hope or Carol or Sam help you learn how to use it?

Perhaps it's walking into your school, knowing that in 1992 fifteen elementary school libraries opened. And that they are still in place with full-time librarians, serving the children. Do you know that currently a Paterson School Library Media Specialist, Angela Crockett Coxon, is the President of the NJ Association of School Librarians?



Was a PEF Minigrant your first recognition as an outstanding educator? Do you know that more than 10 PEF Minigrant teachers went on to become principals? Bonnie Miele [PANTHER Academy] and Virginia Galizia [Alexander Hamilton Academy] are still serving Paterson's children.

Is it knowing that you'll find out about all the school board candidates through PEF's Voter's Guide, whether on-line or mailed hard copy?

It might even be that you celebrate that your email to our legislators through PEF's ACT web tool helped garner \$2.5 billion of new construction funds for urban schools. And four more schools for Paterson.

Whatever you want to celebrate, PEF wants to share your story. Send us email to isterling@paterson-education.org and we'll post your reason for celebrating with us.

Happy 25th Anniversary!

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Celebrating Navigation 101

Celebrating the Difference Navigation 101 Has Made School 2 Teacher, Kate Kuebler

I have been teaching 7th grade for the last four years in Paterson, and never have I started a school year with students who possessed such a positive enthusiasm for school!

Every September I hand out a student survey to my new students. This survey effectively introduces me to my new class by identifying their interests, goals, positive/ negative attributes, and favorite activities. I usually receive very limited answers that often include far-fetched ideas and unrealistic goals.

This year was the complete opposite. When reviewing the surveys this September, I came across answers that exceeded all expectations. Majority of these surveys included goals that incorporated plans for college. In addition, almost every student had clear-realistic goals, career choices, and mature-well thought out answers.

There were no directions given prior to the distribution of this survey. In fact, this survey was assigned as homework. The new 7th graders took it upon themselves to provide me with answers and ideas they took pride in. Students elaborated on most questions and really organized their thoughts. I know that this survey would have mimicked prior years if Navigation 101 wasn't involved! The only common link between these students and the survey was the Navigation 101 program. It was clear that this program really assisted students in understanding the requirements needed to reach their goals, as well as the importance of a college education.



As a Navigation 101 advisor, I was so proud of these responses! Students absorbed the program's objectives and allowed the main ideas to remain with them! I look forward to expanding this beneficial program to all the middle school students in School #2. In addition, I anticipate a wonderful school year with goal-orientated students that continue to build on a positive foundation that Navigation 101 helped establish.

Go to the PEF website, www.paterson-education.org for more information about Navigation 101.



Looking forward to the next 25 years

While it's fun to look back at PEF's accomplishments, it's the future that we must envision. The next 25 years are full of challenges that make PEF's future stimulating and important.

What's ahead?

In Paterson's immediate future is a new State Superintendent. We hope to welcome that person in early Spring 2009. PEF will help orient and support our new educational leader as we build new and stronger coalitions to strengthen education for Paterson's children.

Over the next ten years, we expect many innovations.

Our colleagues at the Knowledge Works Foundation have created a map, "What will shape the future of education?" to examine the forces that will change education. For more details and a copy of the map, go to www.kwfdn.org/map.

Here are a few of the trends:



More diversity. By 2034, the entire United States will have a majority of people of color, more diverse than ever before. More people will live in urban environments. More different experiences and assumptions will be part of our lives. Paterson has already reached that milestone, in a state that often misunderstands and underestimates Paterson's capacities.

More ambiguity. With global connectness comes many divergent opinions and experiences. We will have to juggle many competing requirements, so that solutions to any challenge will require balancing many interests.

More constant contact. Our young people are smart networkers who will push the organizational edge for employers and community leaders. As devices become smaller and cheaper, we will create

new modes of work, socializing, and community learning that stress cooperative strategies, and experimentation.

More smart schools. We will see the end of the factory school. Sensor-based technologies that currently track resources and manage logistics, will also be used to monitor and manage daily life including schools. With wireless Internet access, location-based information, and displays everywhere, schools will become adaptive learning environments that respond to the changing needs of students, and their families.

More personalization. Personalized learning focuses on the craft of teaching. Personalized learning plans will leverage new media, brain research, and school structures to create differentiated learning experiences



based on individual needs. Interactive and collaborative digital spaces, such as wikis, will provide shared learning portfolios where students, educators, parents, and other learning stakeholders can perform assessments and real-time interventions. New classroom approaches will be controversial for many teachers because they require "unlearning" many basic assumptions about the nature of teaching and learning.

These trends will challenge every way we conduct our lives and provide education to our young people. Those who thrive will be those who persons and institutions who are agile, life-long learners-like the Paterson Education Fund.

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at 25: Looking at - and for - Leadership

As the Commissioner of Education oversees the search for a new State Superintendent for the Paterson Public Schools, we must be vigilant to assure that a qualified, competent and highly energetic person is chosen and given the tools necessary to create a successful school district for all our children.

- Seek assurances from the Governor’s Office that there will not be a repeat of the extended negotiations around the new State Superintendent’s contract. Paterson’s new State Superintendent should have a signed contract with 30 days of the hiring announcement. The contract should lay out goals, benchmarks and a clear evaluation process, including the tool to be used in the evaluation.

The Community Compact and Strategic Plan

- While PEF enthusiastically supports a strategic planning process for the new administration, that process by itself is not sufficient to provide the support needed by a new administration.
- The Commissioner must provide top quality technical assistance to the State Superintendent in order to create and implement the strategic plan, as well as meet the requirements of QSAC. That assistance must include working with the new Superintendent to expand school facilities to reduce overcrowding, improve working conditions for students and teachers and boost student achievement.
- Elected officials should not be permitted to lobby the State Superintendent for staff hiring. The Governor and Commissioner should publicly agree to support the State Superintendent’s actions in choosing the most capable staff members to support student achievement.
- In order to avoid repeating past difficulties, we need to create a Community Compact which lays out agreements with our various elected officials at all levels, unions, parent groups, community groups, etc., as to expected, mutually agreeable behavior. As the chart below suggests, the new superintendent will probobly work with more than one Governor and Commissioner of Education during his/her service.

State Superintedent	Governor	Commissioner of Education	Mayor
Laval Wilson 1991-1997	James Florio 1990-1994	John Ellis 1990-2	Bill Pascrell 1990-1996
		Mary Lee Fitzgerald 1993	
Edwin Duroy 1997-2004	Christine Whitman 1994-2001	Leo Klagholz 1994-99	Marty Barnes 1997-2002
	{Donald DiFrancesco, acting 2001-02}	David Hespe 1999-2001	
		Vito Gagliardi 2001	
Dennis Clancy [Interim] 2004-05	James McGreevey 2002-2004	William Librera 2002-05	Jose “joey” Torres 2002-2010
	{Richard Codey, acting 2004-06}		
Michael Glascoe 2005-08	Jon Corzine 2006-10	Lucille Davy 2005-10	
Dennis Clancy [Interim] 2008-09			