

Paterson

EDUCATION

Fund Report

March 15, 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.

Our 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.

An Educated Voter's Guide to Paterson's School Board Elections:

Can Paterson return to local control?

We have a new law, known as NJQSAC, which includes a roadmap for how the State of New Jersey ends state takeovers. But our first evaluation under NJQSAC showed many challenges. Unlike Newark or Jersey City, Paterson failed to get any parts of the system back.

Now Paterson must make progress for our children with fewer resources, thanks to the new School Funding Reform Act of 2008. And with the question of who will be our State Superintendent open.

We cannot return to local control until the Board of Education proves that it can govern itself. That means acting within the ethics rules, working together as a Board, and demonstrating that members can hold each other and the district accountable for educating Paterson's children.

That makes your vote more important than ever before. On April 15, you will choose 4 Board members from among the 10 candidates. Vying for 3 three-year terms are T.J. Best, Chauncey Brown, Maritza Davila, Wendy Guzman, Jonathan Hodges, Jacqueline Rodgers, Herman Vallellanes and Daniel Vergara. Vying for a two year term are Danilo Inoa and Juan "Mitch" Santiago. Brown, Hodges and Inoa currently hold seats on the board.

Now more than ever, we need wise, dedicated leadership.

Your vote counts. Vote April 15!

Paterson School Board Candidates 2008

The following information was provided by the candidates. Where there is no information, the candidate did not respond. PEF has not verified the information but publishes it as a public service.

Address questions directly to the candidates or to Irene Sterling, PEF at 973-881-8914.

Candidates for a 3 year term. Choose 3.

Theodore Best Jr., Nickname: "T.J."; 146 Warren St., Home Phone: 973-240-7036; Work Phone: 732-979-



4968; E-mail: thebest06@gmail.com; Employment: U.S. Congressional Staffer. Length of residence in Paterson: 26 years; Education: B.A. Political Science and Africana Studies from Rutgers University; Family: Not Married, No Children, 3 sisters, 2 nieces, 2 nephews; Past and Current Involvement in the PPS: Graduate PS#6 and Eastside HS; SGA President; Teacher, Books and Balls Summer School; Member, Community Advisory Committee; Civic Involvements: NAACP, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc; Great Falls Movement; Habitat for Humanity, 4th Ward Revitalization Project; Alpha Teens Go To High School Go To College Mentor Program; Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months: Five; Three Major issues: The Paterson Public School System is plagued with many problems and needs to address a variety of issues if our students are expected to succeed. Chief among these are 1. Quality of Education; as a product of the PPSS while under state control I can say that I was ill equipped for the academic rigors of college. Our Students deserve the BEST education possible to properly prepare them for life. 2. Re-obtaining local control over the school system to give students, parents, voters, and tax payers a real voice in our children's future. 3. Safety for students and staff. We need to create a safe environment that is conducive to thought provoking intellectual exchanges that motivate and inspire students to achieve.

Chauncey I. Brown, III; 693-E. 28th Street; Home phone: 1-973-725-4351; Work Phone: 973-553-2430,



973-553-2431; Fax Number: 973-553-2825; Length of residence in Paterson: 45 years; E-mail: chaunceyibrowniii@yahoo.com; brownconsultinggroup@yahoo.com; Employment: Captain-Paterson Fire Department, Chief Consultant-The Brown Consulting Group; Education: Attended Fairleigh Dickerson University-Working towards Master's Business Administration; Thomas Edison College-Public Policy Public Schools; Bergen Community College; NJSBA-Certified Master Board Member-2005; NJSBA-Certified Board Member-2005; Family: Married with 3 children; Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Elected 2002 Paterson Board of Education, Elected 2002-2006-Passaic County School Board 2ND Vice-President, Elected 2003-2004 Board Vice President, Re-

Elected 2005-2008-Paterson Board of Education, Elected 2005-2006 Board President; Served on State Level-NJSBA-Delegate to Assembly; Served on Federal Level-NJSBA-Delegate to Federal Relation Network Civic Involvements: Appointed-1982 Paterson Board of Recreation, Re-Appointed 6 times by 3 different Mayor's until 1999; Served as President 1994-1999; Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months: 5 regular, 2 special, 1 workshop. Three major issues: 1. SCHOOL FUNDING: The state has failed to live up to the Supreme Court decision, Abbott V Burke, that all schools should be funded based on need. Our children are being left behind unless we continue to put pressure on our legislators. 2. NJQSAC: The law that determines how state operated districts return to local control. The Paterson Board of Education, under my leadership as President, recognized that governance is an essential component in this. I established the policy committee to assess, develop and implement sound policy for the district. Over the past 3 years this has approved hundreds of policies. 3. SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH: The State Department of Education has put this district in a precarious position, by forcing our current superintendent to step down. The State DOE has also taken upon themselves to conduct a search without the board's participation. We must be involved in selecting our next Superintendent.

Maritza Davila, “Mari”, 150 North 9th Street Paterson, New Jersey 07522; Home phone: 973-720-0163; Work phone: 973-684-6307; Fax: 973-684-6778; E-mail: mdavila@pccc.edu.



Employment Assistant Director of Admissions, Passaic County Community College. Length of residence in Paterson: 36 years. Education: Public school #20 class of 85, Eastside High School class of 89, Monmouth University, Bachelor of Arts, Communications - Public Relations/Journalism & Fairleigh Dickinson University MAS, Masters in Administrative Science. Family: 1 son. Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: I have 14 years of experience working with our Paterson children through the admissions process for Passaic County Community College. I have done workshops for parents and high school seniors to promote the importance of higher education. Participant of the Its Your life 411 programs in Passaic County, a pro-active role-playing program that teaches 7th & 8th graders decision making skills, character education, consequences of high risk behaviors and how to access services from different agencies in the county. Civic Involvements: I am currently the Board president for Community Action for Social Affairs, INC. (CASA). I volunteer in the food pantry as well as the Christmas toy drive. I am a member of the National Education Association (NEA), The Middle States Association of Collegiate Registrars and officers of Admission (MSACROA), the Passaic County School Counselors Association (PCSCA) and the New Jersey Association for College Admissions Counseling (NJACAC). Number of Board meetings attended in the last 6 months: 1. Three major issues, in 150 words total or less: 1. Parental Involvement, 2. Safety in our schools and 3. Quality Education.

Wendy Guzman, 11 Pennington Street, Home phone: 973-689-6575; E-mail: wendy@wendyguzman.com;



Employment: Full time mom; Length of residence in Paterson: born and raised in Paterson. Education: Passaic County Technical Institute; Bergen Community College; Family: Married with one child. Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Volunteered in day care centers with Mu Sigma Upsilon Sorority. I mentor a group of students. Civic Involvements: Member, Sociedad Pro-Desarrollo De Ranchete, Dominican Political Representation (DOPOR), ACORN, Vi Queen of Dominican State Parade and Festival NJ 2004. Certified tax preparer. Certified lead technician. Licensed Notary Public. Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months: 1 and watched others on cable. Three major issues: 1. Re-gaining local control of our school system.

Paterson has been under state control since 1991 and they decide what happens with our children. How can that happen if we are the ones that live here and it's our children attending Paterson Public Schools? We should be the ones deciding what's best for our children. 2. Parental Involvement: we need to get the parents more involved in their children's education. Education begins at home and we need to work in conjunction with parents to analyze the educational needs of our children. 3. Safety: Some children are scared to go to school with all the things happening. They need to be concerned about their education, not their safety, so we need to implement more methods of security.

Jonathan Hodges, M.D., 32 Overlook Ave; Home phone: (973) 333-5182; Work Phone: (973) 321-0980;



Length of residence in Paterson: 20 yrs; Education: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute - Bachelor of Science; Bowman Gray Medical School at Wake Forest University, Medical Doctorate; St Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center - Family Practice Residency. Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Guest lecturer, Career Day Speaker, EHS's School Management Team :1998-2001, Paterson School Board member (2002 - 2008) - (2) terms: Past President, Current Facilities Committee Chairman; Civic Involvements: Contributing Writer to Urban News, former Editorial Board Member of Herald & News, Current Blogger for Herald & News' Cityscape, Periodic contributor to Patersononline Magazine, former PEF Board member, YMCA Board of Directors Member, Paterson Board of Education delegate to

the NJSBA, Current Chair of the Urban Boards Committee, Senator John Girgenti's Gang Taskforce. Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months: Everyone of them. [continued]

Jonathan Hodges, continued. Three major issues: 1. Education Outcomes: Our most important responsibility is to increase the educational rigor and success of our students. We have to develop improved ways to impart instruction, increase student engagement and expand the types of educational experiences our children have. Management of the NJQSAC process is a way to measure of our success at providing an excellent educational system and keys our return to local control. 2. Facilities: We have some of the worse facilities in the state. We need to get our Long Range Facilities Plan realized. Hence, we have to find ways to pressure the legislature to provide the funding to upgrade our facilities. We also have to continue to find new locations for future schools. 3. Accountability: We must continue to strengthen accountability systems. They monitor how well our staff is performing and guide us as we seek to improve the efficiencies of the educational services provided.

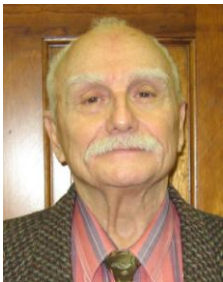
Jacqueline A. Rogers, 4 Kathy's Court; Home phone 973-445-4988; E-mail: rogersjacqui10@yahoo.com;



Employment. Currently unemployed; Length of residence in Paterson: 41 years; Education: PS 4 and EHS in Paterson, /Clifton School of Business, A.S. from Passaic County Community College, additional work at Montclair State University and William Paterson University. Family: One son. Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Career day at School #4 and formerly an instructional assistant in the Paterson Public Schools. Civic Involvements: Secretary of the Passaic County Democratic committee. Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months: 7. Three major issues: 1. The exorbitant salaries of the superintendent and his assistants when the district as a whole is in such poor shape; when there are schools that are operating on a daily basis without sufficient supplies-primarily paper, when certain sports clubs can't even have uniforms and sporting goods-for example, the Tennis club at

JFKHS. 2. The fighting as JFK and the high school drop out rates. Maybe if the children had sufficient programs to participate in, maybe they'd consider staying in school. Just maybe that could be a possibility if we had the funds. 3. The talk about the MJM Parent Resource Center re-locating. All though, they've been discussing this issue for quite some time now, I don't believe that it's in the best interest of the children and their parents. Why should we have to go nearly to Clifton to get the parental support that we need?

Herman C. Vallellanes, "Sarge," 72 Chadwick St. Home phone: 973-523-1280; Employment: retired;



Length of residence in Paterson: over 20 years. Education: AAS from Passaic County Community College; Family: Married, with 12 children and 15 grandchildren. Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Former substitute teacher in the Paterson Public Schools. Civic Involvements: Assistant program director for Seniors in community Service of the Urban League and employment specialist at CASA. Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months: I watch on TV. Three major issues, 1. It is not fair for Paterson students not to be able to acquire a BA right here in Paterson. 2.

Thousands of dollars are wasted daily in the school lunch program. 3. I was instrumental in bringing the Jr. ROTC program when I was at Eastside High School. This is a very important program that builds leaders. I'll try to motivate all the High School principals to include the ROTC program in their curriculum.

Daniel "Danny" Vergara, Sr., 249 5th Avenue. Home phone: 973-279-4309. Work Phone: 973-321-1488,



E-mail: vergarad95@yahoo.com. Employment: City of Paterson, Deputy Chief Inspector, Commissioner of the Rent Leveling Board. Length of residence in Paterson: 47 years. Education: Eastside H.S., Passaic County Community College. Family: married with two children. Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Board member 2001 to 2007. After school basketball league Director. Civic Involvements: Past president of the Puerto Rican Parade, 1996 and 2005; Vice-president of the Roberto Clemente Park Restoration; Leader of Scout Troop 911 1997 to present; Knights of Columbus member; Commissioner of the Rent Leveling Board. Number of Board meeting attended in the last 6 months: 2. [continued]

Daniel “Danny” Vergara, Sr, continued. Three major issues: 1. Safety of the children before, during and after school. Challenge the district to provide more safety. 2. Parent involvement. To inform parents on all issues and educational opportunities available to them and their children within the school district. 3. Returning to local control so we can make decisions within our school district.

Candidates for a two year term. Choose one.

Danilo E. Inoa, 274 Wall Ave. Home phone: (973)684-3559; Work Phone (973)321-1313Ext.3318; Fax (973)321-1314; E-mail:dinoa@patcity.com dei64@hotmail.com; Employment: Recreation Supervisor, City of



Paterson, Coordinating all youth programs; Length of residence in Paterson: 20 years; Education: Computer Science Bachelor Degree in the Dominican Republic and Two years of continuing at Hostos Community College, Bronx New York; Family: Married with six (6) Children.Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Commissioner Paterson Board of Education, Appointed 2008, Member of the Multi- Ethnic Task Force for the last 2 years;Civic Involvements: Commissioner of Rent Leveling Board; Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months: I have attended all meeting since I have been appointed. Three major issues: 1. Concern about early drop out rates; it is a real problem in our Education System; 2. We need a rigorous curriculum to confront in this matter. 3. We have to continue building more schools, which will help in reducing class sizes. I'm also a strong believer in local control

Juan Santiago, “Mitch,” 81 George St. Home phone: 973-296-3474; Work Phone: 973-225-5343, 973-321-



1488; E-mail:Mitch-world@hotmail.com; Employment: Passaic County Sheriff's Department Sheriff's Investigator and deputy chief inspector of Department of Public Works; Lived in Paterson: 27 years; GED, Passaic County Police Academy, 2005; Father of 9 and 1 step-son; Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: on the board 7 years, served as President/Vice-President twice, Civic Involvements: (President) Roberto Clemente Memorial Committee, member NAACP, Speziale Out Reach Foundation. Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months: none; Three major issues: 1. After school programs 2. Inside school suspension 3. Reconstruction of Hinchliffe Stadium.

Paterson Board of Education Members 2007-2008 Attendance

Attendance record for 7 workshop meetings, 6 special meetings and 9 regular meetings, May – Jan
Data on attendance is taken from official Board of Education minutes.

Term ends 2008	Work Shop-7	Special 6	Regular 9	Term ends 2009	Work shop -7	Special 6	Regular 9			
Chauncey Brown	2	2	7	Joseph Atallo	7	4	9			
Jonathan Hodges	7	6	9	Errol Kerr	7	3	9			
Lawrence Spagnola	6	5	9	Willa Mae Taylor	7	6	9			
Term ends 2010	# Resigned November 2007 *Appointed January 2008									
Al Moody#								5	3	6
Andre Sayegh								7	6	9
Waheedah Muhammed								6	5	9
Danilo Inoa *	1	0	1							

School Board Election Day is April 15, 2008.

Vote

As if your children's futures depend on it.

Because they do!



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