

Paterson

EDUCATION

Fund Report

March 20, 2009

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:

Returning to local control: What will Paterson decide?

Our community is very clear; we want to have local control in our schools. If you agree, then the vote you cast on April 21 is very important. Who sits on the Board of Education and how they carry out their duties is critical to returning Paterson to local control.

Our Board of Education members must carry out their duties faithfully within the law. Each time they don't, Paterson takes a step backwards. In order to receive local control, our board members must report their finances, participate in training and above all, follow the standards for ethical behavior.

Any ethics violation by a board member [or staff member] is counted for 3 years against us in the State's assessment of board performance. The law, QSAC or Quality Single Accountability Continuum at www.state.nj.us/education/genfo/qsac, frames the Board of Education members as role models for all of the staff members in the Paterson Public Schools. School Board members who behave unethically damage the respect and leadership which school board members must demonstrate if Paterson is to return to local control.

Additionally, the School Board members we elect must work collaboratively with our new State Superintendent and the current members of the Board, Dr. Hodges, Waheedah Muhammed, Wendy Guzman, Danny Inoa and T. J. Best.

Candidates for 3 three years term include incumbents: Zenaida Almario, Joseph Atallo, Errol Kerr and Willa Mae Taylor; as well as newcomers: Donna R. Ivy, Ronald R. King, and Pedro Rodriguez. Candidates for 1 one year term includes: Blaine Dickinson, Eddie Gonzalez, Domingo A. Mendez and Herman C. Vallellanes.

Vote on April 21st as if our children's futures depend on it, because they do!

Paterson School Board Candidates 2009

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.

Zenaida M. Almario “Zeny”, 224 Rossiter Avenue, Home phone: 973-942-0982. Work Phone: 973-470-5444 (English Department). Fax: 973-942-0982. Email: zenalmario@aol.com.



Employment: English Teacher-Passaic High School, Passaic, NJ. Length of residence in Paterson: 30 years. Education: Bachelor of Arts English Major (University of Santo Tomas-Manila, Philippines), M.A. in Educational Administration and Supervision (Kean University- Union, NJ). Family: Husband Daughter & Son-in-law. Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Appointed Commissioner of the Board of Education – July 2008. Civic Involvement: Founding President – Hillcrest Neighborhood Association, Inc.; Co-Chairperson - Passaic Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns; President-Elect – Federation of Philippine Societies in New Jersey, Inc., (umbrella organization of all the Filipino-American associations in

New Jersey), among others. Number of Board meeting attended in the last six months: Five (5). Three major issues: 1. As an educator for the past 39 years, with dismay I have seen educational trends come and go. I have seen new ones introduced almost every year. With each one, I also saw the decline of the solid academic foundation that we adults were lucky enough to acquire – thanks to our mentors who instilled in us the basics. What we should now do to improve our educational system, I have only one reply: Go back to basics. Beginning in Pre-K, improved test scores will logically follow. 2. Regained local control is a necessity if we were to improve the plight of the students in the district. I believe the current make-up of the Board is good. It is also a Board that feels the pulse of the city and knows its culture. 3. Being a kinder, gentler district and administration will most certainly improve parental involvement. We must treat the parents with kindness and respect, never letting them feel inferior. Doing so will make them be more willing partners in educating our children.

Dr. Joseph Atallo, 100 Katz Avenue. Home phone: 973-595-7381. Work phone: 973-321-0980

Employment: Management Institute, Columbia University, New York, NY, Coordinator. Education: Doctorate, Masters, Columbia University, Masters, Bachelors, Saint Peter’s College. Family: Single. Past and Current



Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Elected Board of Education member, 2000-present; Active supporter of Paterson Parent Resource Center. Civic Involvements: Board of Directors, Paterson YMCA; Board of Advisors, Hillcrest Neighborhood Association; Paterson Taxpayers Association. Board meetings attended in the last six months: 3. Three major issues: (1) Educational Accountability –adopt policies that promote academic excellence dealing with increased high school graduation rates, dropout prevention, improved literacy and language arts programs, improved mathematics and technology skills. A comprehensive review of special education and gifted and talented programs, and a overall review of curriculum frameworks and implementation. (2) Financial

Accountability- review and establish financial policies that ensure educational dollars are spent on educational programs for Paterson children. Appropriate management practices need to be enforced to prevent the criminal fraud, mismanagement, fiscal abuse and waste that have been an on-going problem in the Paterson school district, particularly in the area of facilities. (3) Parental and Community Involvement-all stakeholders, parents, grandparents, guardians, taxpayers, and all community members who value education need to be informed and involved with the Paterson public schools system and the educational decisions that affect our youth. Schools must be parent and neighborhood friendly & need to be available for after-school events for parent groups, recreation programs, and community events.

Donna R. Ivy, 549 East 27th Street #55. Home phone: 973-341-2565 Work phone: 973-279-8900/973-341-2565; email: divvy@elm-associates.com. Employment: United Way of Passaic County, Elm & Associates, Adjunct Professor, William Paterson University & Essex County College. Length of residence in Paterson: born & raised 30+ years. Education: Bachelor of Arts, Ramapo College, M.Ed. Management major. Family: Son & Daughter-In-Law. Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public schools: Product of Paterson Schools #5, JFK, Collaborate w/School #17 via United Way Passaic County. Civic Involvements: Former Hackensack/Ridgewood Zonta; Passaic County Human Services Advisory Council; Passaic



County Workforce Investment Board's Faith-Based Initiative; Passaic County Housing First Committee; United Way's team leader for Passaic County Voices; Food, Shelter, Utilities, Affordable Health Care, Affordable Childcare, Positive Activities for Teens and Improving High School Graduation Rates; Obama Campaign, Expungement Comm. Work with city councilors Vera Ames & Anthony Davis. Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months: One. Three major issues: 1. Improve High School Graduation Rate. 2. Increase Parent/Grandparent/Guardian School Participation. 3. Increase Public School/Business Partnerships. We must inspire and motivate our students, parents/grandparents/guardians and provide a concrete framework to work together to re-build the Paterson that we love and appreciate. Inspire/motivate to increase positive participation.

Errol S. Kerr, 216 East 30th Street; Home Phone: 973-742-7042; E-mail: ekerr@gloryusa.com;



Employment: Glory USA Inc. Logistic Department Supervisor; Lived in Paterson: 26 years; B.Sc. Business Administration, Ramapo College; Married with two children and a grandson; Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Member of the J F K HS Home School Council; Civic Involvements: VP of the Caribbean Empowerment Program of NJ, Member of the NAACP; Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months: All. Three major issues: (1) Closing the achievement gap. Our children over the years have not performed well on most state sponsored exams. While this does not say much about our children's capacity to learn, it does say there is a whole lot that needs to be done in preparing them to learn and to perform. To this end I'm committed to help change the existing culture from one of acceptability of low performance standards to one of excellence in educational achievement. (2) Indiscipline and violence in our schools are probably the two most serious challenges we face as a district today. This two headed monster represent the greatest threat to our success as a district and we need to face it with all the resolve we have to defeat it. If our teachers and our students are led to feel unsafe in what should otherwise be a place of learning, discipline and order, then naturally, the negative outflow from such a situation will adversely affect how instruction is disseminated and learning is developed. As a member of the board I'm committed to work with all concerns to change this cancerous condition and make our schools a place for learning. (3) Local control: We have been under state control since 1991 and we have not seen the promised progress guaranteed to us by the state under its stewardship. It's time the district be placed back into local control where the people can hold those elected accountable for the management of this district.

Ronald D. King, 381 E. 36th Street. Home phone: 201-522-0041. Work phone 877-889-4210. Fax: 877-889-4210. Email: rdkingtut@aol.com. Employment: Primerica, Senior V.P. Length of residence in Paterson: 16 years. Education: High School, Some College. Family: Daughter. Past and



Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Aiding in Intervention with schools JFK, Eastside regarding disciplinary challenge & grief counseling. Civic Involvements: Paterson Pastors Workshop. Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months: 4. Three major issues: 1.) Leadership is one of the main issues in the Paterson School System. In the presence of true leadership leaders always take responsibility for the failure of their charge. They ask for help to facilitate but they don't point fingers without personal responsibility. 2.) Teaching has evolved into more than just teaching. Today's educators expect to come to school, enter the classroom with the students hands folded on the desk ready to learn. Not so today particularly in an urban environment. These are unconventional students, you cannot use conventional methods. This is a total out of the box teaching environment that requires the fostering [continue]

Ronald D. King [continued] of creativity in communication. 3.) Social ills must be taken into process of determine mythology in reaching today's youth. We can't keep beating the same dead horse, new need a new one!

Pedro Rodriguez, 104 N. 6th Street. Home phone: 973-441-9730. Email: Pedro@PedroRodriguez.Net, Website: www.PedroRodriguez.Net. Employment: Sprint-Nextel, RF Operations Manager in New York, Technology Business owner www.IPDominicana.net, Financial Investor: Stock Trader, Currency Trader. Length of Residence in Paterson: I'm a permanent resident of the city since 2003. Education: Bachelor's Degree in Electronic Engineer (Pontificia Universidad Catolica Madre y Maestra, Dom. Rep.). Masters in Business Administration MBA (Mercy College, NY). Currently finishing Masters in Management MM (University of Phoenix Online). Family: Married, Graciela Rodriguez (Wife). My three children: Pedro Jr., Rafael & Gabriel which attends Paterson Public School. Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public School: I have been and will continue to be an advocate for Paterson's students for the years to come. In several occasions I've been before the State Department of Education advocating on behalf of our children in the latest issues affecting the Paterson School District (i.e. High School Redesign and New School Funding Formula (SFRA)). Myself and my wife are active members of Paterson Education Organizing Committee and statewide Education Organizing Committee. Number of Board Meetings Attended in the last 6 Months: All. Civic Involvements: Currently a member of DOPOR (Dominican Political Representation), I am a commissioner of the Paterson Board of Adjustments. As a person who believes in civil insolvents, held voter registration drives, help in collecting donation for the less fortunate and been a member of a team to collect toys for TOTS. Active contributor for March for Babies and March for Dimes initiatives. Volunteered during 911 restoration efforts in Ground Zero. Three Major Issues: 1.) Parental Involvement: in my opinion children whose parents are actively involved in their education have a higher success rate than those whose parents don't get involved. 2.) Student Achievement: It is no secret to anyone that our children in Paterson need improvement in the quality of education they are receiving at this time. If the quality does not improve our children will fail dismally the standardize testing from the state, but aside from that they will fail in life. 3.) Accountability: At the actual economic times we need to stay vigilant that the funds that the district receives get to the classrooms. Paterson School District has a history of mismanagement of funds and our children are the ones affected. With the new SFRA (School Funding Reform Act) our district could potentially receive reduction of aid, which could translate into less resources arriving to the classroom and ultimately affecting the educational development of our children.



Willa Mae Taylor, 410 E. 28th Street. Home phone: 973-279-3691 Work phone: 973-321-0890.



Employment: Retired Educator and Education Administrator. Length of residence in Paterson: 64 years. Education: Graduate Paterson Elementary School No. 8, Paterson Central High School, Fairleigh Dickinson University (B.S. in Elementary Education); William Paterson University (M.A. Admin. & Supervision K-12), Teachers' College Columbia University(Completed course requirement for Doctoral Studies in Family & Community Education. Dissertation to be completed). Family: Widow, 3 grown children, 12 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren. Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Teacher 15 years at No. 10 and No.2, Vice Principal N. 26; Principal of No.28, Norman S. Weir, No.19 and Affirmative Action Administrator. Was a member of PEA, PAA, NJEA. Civic Involvements: Presently a member of County Retired Educators, NJSB(N.J. School Boards), YWCA Board of Directors, Life Member NAACP, Legacy member of NCNW, Vice President AARP Chapter#15, Board of Education Commission, Paterson UEZ Commissioner, County and Municipal Committee member, Elder at United Presbyterian Church. Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months: 6 Workshops, 6 Regular Board Meetings –plus called emergency Executive Sessions. Three major issues, 1. Now that we have our Curriculum Guides based above requirements of the Course-Curriculum of N.J., we must work to learn what is expected of students, teachers and parents to make sure we achieve our goal of academic [continue]

Willa Mae Taylor [continued] success for every child. 2. Fiscal- having enough funding for delivery of services to all children in the district. Proper monitoring of the funds for each unit. Flat funding is a major problem for our urban area. 3. Facilities and Personnel – having enough space for classrooms in district and advocates for more schools to be built in time for the next wave of families moving into our city. Also, placing the best administrators and teachers to fit our ever changing needs of children in Paterson.

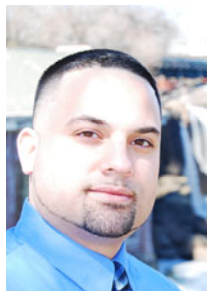
Candidates for a one year term. Choose one.

Blaine Dickinson, 151 Arlington Avenue. Home phone: 973-389-9603. Email:



talk2dickinsons@optonline.net. Employment: Primerica Financial Services. Length of residence in Paterson: 20 yrs. Education: Associates Degree/Essex County Community College. Family: Married/3 children who attend Paterson Public Schools. Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: PTO School #27. Civic Involvements: Hillcrest Neighborhood Assoc/Paterson Tax Payers Assoc. Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months: All. Three major issues: (1) Lack of Comprehensive Curriculum Frameworks, coordinating grades 1st thru 12th grades with a progressive duplicatable format. (2) Lack of educational resources on a citywide level such as textbooks, computers, science labs, copy paper and all appropriate tools for a quality education. (3) Have all teachers and substitutes be fully licensed and certified in classrooms.

Eddie Gonzalez, 480 Paxton Street Paterson, New Jersey 07503; Phone: 862-571-3444; Work phone: 973-



413-1641; MrEddieGonzalez@msn.com. Employment: Facilities Director for New Jersey Community Development Corp. Length of residence in Paterson: I'm a Proud Patersonian, Born and Raised in Paterson. Education: Public School #08. I earned my high school diploma from Passaic County Technical Institute and attended Berkeley College. Family: Married to my lovely wife, Jackie for 4 years and we have a 2 year-old son, named Joshua. Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: I currently serve on the Board of Directors for the Paterson Education Fund (PEF). Recently, I have volunteered to pack some of the 8,000 books that were donated from Scholastic Books Classroom Care project and were distributed to over 80 classrooms in Paterson. I volunteered in the yearly PEF 50 Book Club

celebration. As a member of the Statewide Education Organization Committee (SEOC), I went to Trenton to fight for the continuation of support from the ruling of Abbott v. Burke, which gives urban cities like Paterson more funding for our schools and children. I've attended many PTA and Parent Leadership meetings for the past couple of years in Paterson. Citizens' Campaign, assisted in the development of the proposed Youth Commission Ordinance. Member of the 6th Ward Neighborhood Association-Quality of Life Committee, Sixth Ward Advisory Committee, Attendee of the Hillcrest Neighborhood Association, member of the Sociedad Cultural Borincana, Inc.(SCB), and SCB-Scholarship Committee. Number of Board meetings attended in the last 6 months: 4 plus some Budget & Facility Workshops. Three Major Issues: 1.) Improved Curriculum- I support an improved curriculum with an increased emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math to address global challenges. 2) Facilities/Increase school construction- We need to build more schools to address overcrowding and large class size, and should create community schools that are open later and on the weekends to provide services to the community as well. 3) Accelerated Return to Local Control- It's time for control of our schools to return to people who understand its challenges, are committed to its improvement and appreciate its potential the most – the parents, teachers, and residents of Paterson! The aforementioned issues have inspired me to run and will determine how I will serve.

Alex Mendez, 266 East 19th Street. Home phone: 973-333-8609 Work phone: 201-863-4814; email: domimendez@optonline.net. Employment: I am currently employed by a Distribution Company in Carlstadt, NJ for the past 7 years as a Regional Sales Representative. I am also the president of a transportation company in Secaucus, NJ. Length of residence in Paterson: 9 years. Education: Graduated from UTESA, Santiago, Dom. Rep. with BA in Marketing with Minor in Accounting, Received certificate of completion from Industrial Psychology, Santo Domingo, Rep. Dom. English studies in JFK High School and supplemented the course at UCEDA English School on Saturdays for 2 years. Rutgers University on a certificate program on securities and finance to become a financial planner. Studied Real Estate at Fox School of Real Estate and completed the program for licensure. Family: Proud father of three children where 2 are currently in Paterson public schools. My 3rd child is only 4 months old. My wife is very involved in the Paterson school system & Parent Leadership Alliance. Civic Involvement: I am an active member of DOPOR and in charge of the press and publicity for this institution. Number of Board meeting attended in the past six months: 3. Three major issues: 1.) One of the major issues that the Paterson school systems is suffering right now the massive dropout rate that is going on now with our high school teens. Due to the dropout rate our children are on the streets of our town causing more corruption and delinquency on our street; taking the wrong route in life and make our problems deeper issues causing not only a problem for the schools system, but making life changing decisions the parents of these teens losing control of their children. 2.) The lack of security inside and out of our schools. The students and gangs invade our schools with metal objects and make our schools system a dangerous place to be. It makes it very difficult for all the children to concentrate or focus on their studies if they are truly worried for their safety. 3.) Last but not least important of our worries is the low grades and test scores that our students are receiving in our school system. A perfect example of this is the results from the NJ ASK testing results: 4th grade Science state average for 2008 was at 85% and our district scores for this subject and year was way below theirs at 56%. These results are unacceptable and we as concerned parents and second myself as a candidate for the board of education need to find possible solutions for these issues.



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. 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.



Paterson Board of Education Members 2008-2009 Attendance

Attendance record for -workshop meetings, - special meetings and - regular meetings, May – Jan
 Data on attendance is taken from official Board of Education minutes at
<http://www.paterson.k12.nj.us/board/meeting-minutes-08-09.html>

Term ends 2009	Work Shop-8	Special 1	Regular 8	Term ends 2011	Work shop -8	Special 1	Regular 8
Joseph Atallo*	0	0	0	TJ Best	7	1	8
Errol Kerr	7	1	8	Wendy Guzman	8	1	8
Willa Mae Taylor	8	1	8	Jonathan Hodges	8	1	8
Term ends 2010				*Served a 12 month suspension for an ethics violation. + Resigned in June for City Council # appointed to replace Sayegh in August			
Andre Sayegh+	2	0	2				
Zenaida Almario#	6	n/a	5				
Waheedah Muhammed	8	1	8				
Danilo Inoa	8	1	8				

School Board Election Day is April 21, 2009.



Vote

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Because they do!

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Brought to you by **Paterson**
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