

# Paterson

# EDUCATION

## Fund Report

March 20, 2007

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). PEN is a national association of Local education funds and individuals working to advance public school reform in low-income communities across our country. The Paterson Education Fund is a founding member.

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Public involvement  
Public education  
Public benefit

## **Your Educated Voter's Guide to Paterson's School Board Elections**

Your vote is more important than ever before! As the State of New Jersey underfunds the Abbott remedies, Paterson will receive less funding than it needs to support our children's education. The new board will have to decide whether to continue an appeal or make serious cuts in our children's educational programs for 2007-2008. The Board of Education members elected this year will help make these very important decisions.

On April 17, you will choose 3 Board members from among the 9 candidates. Vying for 3 three-year terms are Humberto Cuadrado, Manuel Gonzalez, Alonzo Moody, Waheedah Muhammad, David Rivera, Juan J. Santiago, Andre Sayegh, Luis Velez and Daniel Vergara. You will find information about all the candidates inside this report.

Moody, Sayegh and Vergara currently hold seats on the board. Successful candidates must be able to work with State Superintendent Dr. Michael Glascoe and the other six board members: Atallo, Brown, Hodges, Kerr, Spagnola and Taylor.

### **✓Current Powers of the Paterson Board of Education 2007**

The State Superintendent continues to convene, schedule and set the agenda of the Board of Education. The Board votes in an advisory capacity on Curriculum, Legal, Fiscal, Facilities and Policy Matters. The Board has no voting rights over personnel, outside legal counsel, employee/labor contracts or the adoption of salary guides.

**✓ACTIONS OF THE BOARD MAY BE OVERRIDDEN BY THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT.**

**School Board Election Day is April 17, 2007**

# Paterson Board of Education Candidates 2007-2010

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 Irene Sterling, PEF at 881-8914.

**Candidates for three year terms April 2007-April 2010. Vote for three.**

**Humberto Cuadrado**, 180 Elberon Avenue, 07502. Home Phone: 973-460-5782. Work Phone: 973-321-1120. Email: [cuad1958@optonline.net](mailto:cuad1958@optonline.net). Employment: City of Paterson, Police Department 1986-Present, Major Crimes Division Detective..Length of Residence in Paterson: 33 years. Education: 1987-Present, Continuing Education Courses related to Law Enforcement; 1987-1989, Passaic County Community College. 1986-1987, Paterson Police Academy..Family: Married, 5 children. Past and Current involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: As a parent: heavily involved with my 3 older daughters public school education and my two younger sons Abbott Pre-school, Attend Paterson Public Schools Parent Workshops. Civic Involvements: Founder and President, Paterson Hispanic Police Association (1990-Present).Chair, Paterson Police Memorial Monument Committee remembering our fallen heroes (2006-Present). Executive Board Member, Paterson P.B.A. Local #1 Annual Dinner Gala 2006.and Puerto Rican Parade of Paterson (1990-Present). Member, Blue Knights New Jersey (1998-Present), New Jersey Division of Notary Public (1993-Present) and Paterson Disaster Relief Committee (1987-Present). Number of Board Meetings attended in the last 6 months: 3, mostly view pre-recorded meetings. Three major issues: 1. Hold School Construction Corporation accountable for building the new schools necessary to reduce class size and allow teachers to teach more effectively and thereby increase test scores meeting the No Child Left Behind requirements. 2.As a professional law enforcement officer, work closely with the administration and the city to continue improving the schools public safety with surveillance cameras, vital equipment and new emergency response system. 3. Create more after school recreational programs to deter students from turning to negative alternatives such as gangs and by the same token reinforce a gang awareness initiative for both parents and students.



**Manuel Gonzalez**. Nickname: Manny. 383 E 27<sup>th</sup> St. Home phone: 973-279-9872. Employment: Retired steelworker. Length of residence in Paterson: 40 years. Education: HS graduate. Family, married with 8 grown children. Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: former President of Eastside High School PTA. Civic Involvements: former member Alcoholic Beverage Commission; currently member of Disabled American Vets, American Legion and AmVets; advisor Paterson Youth Council. Three major issues: 1. Accountability for children's education. 2. Abbott funding and programs. 3. School facilities



**Alonzo Moody**, Nickname: Al. 26 Emerson Avenue 07502; Home phone: 973-790-0913. Work phone: 973-321-1264. Fax: 973-595-7460. Employment: Director, Paterson Youth Services Bureau. Length of residence in Paterson: 53 years. Education: BA Degree. Family Married with 3 sons. Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Member since 1991, served one term as President. Civic Involvements: Member of the Passaic County Superior Court Committee on Minority Concerns and Passaic County Youth Commission. Number of Board Meetings attended in the last 6 months: ALL. Three major issues: 1. Board Development. 2. Facilities. 3. Academic Achievement



**Waheedah Muhammad**, 21 Market Street. Home phone: 973-684-4975. Cell Phone: 862-881-7716. Fax: 973-684-4975 Employment: Retired. Length of residence in Paterson: 30 years. Education: Some College. Family: four sons and two daughters. Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Past president of Schs. #10, Rosa Parks HS, and Voc. Tech. Civic Involvements: NAACP, N.C.N.W., W.A.C.C., 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Alliance, 4<sup>th</sup> Ward C.D.C. Three major issues: 1. Education and finance should compliment each other. 2. Safety, at particularly our high schools is very troubling. 3. Parental Involvement is still not were it should be, I do know having put six children thru this same Paterson school system, it can be done if Parents and Teachers equally being responsible equal success.



**David Rivera**, 180 East 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, 07514. Home Phone: 973-768-6962. Work Phone: 201-356-3765. Fax: 973-569-2981. E-mail: [RivDavid@aol.com](mailto:RivDavid@aol.com). Employment: 30 years for the Hoboken Board of Education, Supervisor for the Custodial Department; Length of Residence in Paterson: 7 years. Education: Hoboken High School and some college. Family: My wife Marta Rivera, three kids and one stepdaughter. Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Past Member of the Facility Advisory Board for Facilities and Distribution. Civic Involvements: Member of the New Jersey State Law Enforcement Officers Association, Previous candidate for 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Councilman, Past Member of Sociedad Cultural Borincana, Inc. Number of Board Meetings attended in the last six months: I have attended some board meetings. When not in attendance, I watch them on the television. Three major issues: If privileged to serve on the Board of Education, I am committed to the following: 1. Honest, open communication among the Board and the stakeholders: students, parents, taxpayers, and community members and organizations. 2. Programs and practices that serve the needs of a diversified student population: General population, Gifted and Talented, Special Needs, second language learners, etc...The goal is to provide opportunities for all students to reach their potential. 3. Sound managerial practices that address the facilities in terms of fiscal accountability and delivery of services in terms of maintenance, custodial services, and both short and long term planning.



**Juan J. Santiago**. Nickname: Mitch . 81 George St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl. Home phone: 973-296-3474. Work Phone: 973-225-5343/973-321-1488. Employment: Passaic County Sheriff's Dept, Inspector City of Paterson D.P.W. Length of residence in Paterson: 26 years. Education: GED, Passaic County, and Police Academy. Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: 7 years Board Member, Twice Vice President, President, Annual Volleyball Tournament. Civic Involvements: member, NAACP; president of the Roberto Clemente Memorial Committee; Past Aide for Assemblymen Alfred Steele; Vice President, Puerto Rican Parade. Three major issues: 1. Fighting to keep our school safe from gangs and drugs. 2. Inside School Suspension, Children can't learn sitting at home while the parents are working. 3. More after school programs, also fighting to protect our children from child porn.



**Andre Sayegh**, 215 Dundee Avenue. Home phone: 973-278-7048. Work Phone: 973-427-1229. Fax: 973-423-5895. E-mail: [andresayegh@optonline.net](mailto:andresayegh@optonline.net). Employment: Chief of Staff, Senator John A. Girgenti. Length of residence in Paterson: lifelong Patersonian. Education: BA, History, Seton Hall University, graduated with the highest honors. MPA Masters of Public Policy and Administration. Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: 2002-2004 Board Liaison, 2004-Present Board member, Civic Involvements: PEF Board, Inner Faith Performing Arts, Vice President 2006-present, Paterson Rotary Club, Hillcrest Neighborhood Association, Eastside Neighborhood Association, Sixth Ward Neighborhood Association. Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months: All. Three major issues: 1. Implementation of the newly adopted curriculum. For the first time in over fifteen years, we will give our children a comprehensive and uniform curriculum. The most essential element of education is to ensure that all of our children in all of our schools are learning the same thing at the same time. 2. Fiscal accountability. We must never allow any amount of money to be misappropriated again because when dollars are last it is our children who suffer. We must continue to provide oversight and bring order to our business office. 3. Regaining and retaining local control after sixteen years, the state has proven it can't run our district. We live here, we work here and we must make the decisions that will determine that fate of our twenty-seven thousand students.



**School Board Election Day is April 17,  
2007!**

**Make Your Vote Count!**

# Paterson Board of Education Candidates, continued

**Daniel Vergara, Sr.**, Nickname: Danny. 249 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Home phone: 973-279-4309. Work Phone: 973-321-1488, E-mail: [danielvergara@aol.com](mailto:danielvergara@aol.com). Employment: City of Paterson, Deputy Chief Inspector, Commissioner of the Rent Leveling Board. Length of residence in Paterson: born and raised 45 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 present. After school basketball league Director. Civic Involvements: Past president of the Puerto Rican Parade, 1996 and 2005; Co-founder of the Roberto Clemente Committee for Roberto Clemente Park; Youth Director of Saint Agnes Church; Present Leader of Scout Troop 911 1997 to present; Knights of Columbus member, 2004 to present; recipient of: Jefferson Award in Washington DC by Senator Frank Lautenberg for community services, 2006, Scout Master of the year Award 2006, honored by the City Council and the Passaic County Free Holders for Community Service. Three major issues: 1. Improve test score and quality of education. Returning to local control. 2. Parental involvement, to inform parents on all issues and educational opportunities available to them and their children. 3. Challenging the District to develop safety for our children before during and after school. Building new school and refurbishing our oldest.



**Luis Velez**, 396 E. 39<sup>th</sup> Street, Paterson, NJ 07504. Home Phone: (973) 891-5079; Work Phone: (973)785-9200 Ext. 3338. Employment: Financial Service Advisor, North Jersey Federal Credit Union. Length of Residence in Paterson: 18 Years. Education: High School Graduate; Theology and Religion, NY Theology and Religion University; AA, Guttenberg College in Criminal Justice. Family: Father of 3 Children. Pass and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Active Parent, 2005 President & Present VP Home School Council of East Side High School, Member, SLC of East Side High School. Civic Involvements: Volunteer, United Way of Passaic County; Sargent at Arms, United Puerto Rican Parade in Paterson; Member, Latino Leadership Alliance of Passaic Chapter and Community Emergency Response Team, Treasurer, Puerto Rican State Parade. Number of Board Meetings attended in the last six months: Attended all Board Meetings and few workshops. Major Issues: For years, too many issues have gone unaddressed and unsolved. The present system has failed to address some of the fundamental problems we are facing on the education of our children. It's time for educational accountability for students and financial accountability in our District. Work to guarantee that funds are not mismanaged. I will work for the benefit and education of our children to improve the quality education, to strength the family support and maintain a community engagement, guarantee proper security, maintenance and construction of school facility in our school district, supporting special education and bilingual programs and maintain a progressive curriculum, create programs to reduce drop-outs in our High Schools. Demonstrate that the Board can govern to move forward to local control and unite the community of Paterson for the benefit of our Children.



## Paterson Board of Education members 2006-2007

Attendance record for 9 regular meetings, 9 workshop meetings and 5 special meetings from May 2006 through February 2007. Data on attendance is taken from official Board of Education minutes.

Term ends 2007	Reg [9], Work [9], Sp [5]	Term ends 2008	Reg [9], Work [9], Sp [5]
Al Moody	9 of 9, 9 of 9, 5 of 5	Chauncey Brown	3 of 9, 3 of 9, 3 of 5
Andre Sayegh	9 of 9, 9 of 9, 5 of 5	Jonathan Hodges	9 of 9, 9 of 9, 5 of 5
Daniel Vergara	7 of 9, 5 of 9, 3 of 5	Lawrence Spagnola	8 of 9, 9 of 9, 5 of 5
	Term ends 2009	Reg [9], Work [9], Sp [5]	
	Joseph Atallo	9 of 9, 9 of 9, 5 of 5	
	Errol Kerr	9 of 9, 9 of 9, 5 of 5	
	Willa Mae Taylor	8 of 9, 8 of 9, 5 of 5	

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