

Paterson

EDUCATION

Fund Report

March 15, 2004

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). The mission of PEN is to build public demand and mobilize resources for quality public education for *all* children through a national constituency of local education funds and individuals.

The Paterson Education Fund is a founding member.

Paterson Education Fund
22 Mill Street, Third Floor
Paterson, NJ 07501
973-881-8914 voice
973-881-8059 Fax
www.paterson-education.org

Public involvement. Public education. Public benefit.

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

Paterson is moving towards local control. Commissioner of Education Librara is proposing a new accountability system called NJ QSAC. The proposal includes a roadmap how for the State of New Jersey ends state takeovers. [See inside for more details.] If both the NJ Legislature and State Board of Education act on the NJ QSAC proposal, Paterson could regain some local powers in 2005.

Your vote is more important than ever before. On April 20, you will choose Board members from among the 9 candidates. Vying for 3 three-year terms are Malikah Abdullah, Vivian English, Errol S. Kerr, Erik Lowe, Alonzo Moody, Gus Penaranda, Andre Sayegh, Anna Maria Vancheri and Daniel Vergara. Moody and Vancheri currently hold seats on the board.

Successful candidates must be able to work with the State Superintendent and the other six board members: Atallo, Brown, Hodges, Kline, Santiago and Taylor.

The Paterson Board of Education members elected on April 20 will be critical to moving out of state operation to local control.

✓ Your vote counts. Use it!

Current Powers of the Paterson Board of Education 2003

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

The State Superintendent continues to convene, schedule and set the agenda of the Board of Education.

Fiscal Matters	Curriculum Matters	Legal Matters
Adoption of Budget	Curriculum evaluation schedule adoption	Initiation of litigation
Awarding of bids	Curriculum articulation	Settlement of litigation
Awarding of any contracts	School based plans	Purchase/rental /lease of property
Approval of appropriation adjustments	Gifted & Talented programs/ services	
Comprehensive Maintenance Plans	High School Core Proficiencies	Items NOT voted upon by the Board
Annual Health & Safety Inspections	Guidance Programs	1. All personnel issues
Monthly bills and claims	Counseling program	2. Outside Legal counsel
Receipt of financial reports	Substance abuse prevention	3. Employee/labor contracts
Audit	Textbook adoption	4. Adoption of salary guides
Facilities master plan	Educational consultant contracts	
Approval of non-curricular grants	Approval of curriculum grants	
Budget transfers	Tuition & out of district placements	
Building change orders	School calendar	

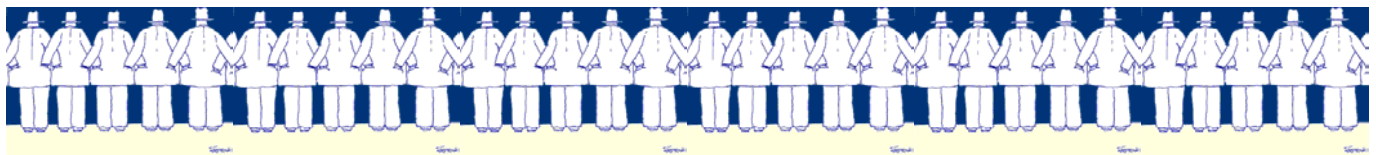
Paterson Board of Education members 2003-2004

Attendance record for 8 workshop and 8 regular meetings, July - February

Data on attendance is taken from official Board of Education minutes.

Term ends 2004	Workshop [8]	Regular [8]	Term ends 2006	Workshop [8]	Regular [8]
William "Kemper" McDowell	8	8	Joseph Atallo	8	8
Al Moody	6	8	William "Bill" Kline	8	7
Anna Maria Vancheri	8	8	Willa Mae Taylor	8	8
Term ends 2005			The Paterson Board Of Education has two appointed members: Guy Generals, and Leslie Agard-Jones		
Chauncey Brown	5	7			
Jonathan Hodges	8	8			
Juan "Mitch" Santiago	2	8			

School Board Election Day is April 20, 2004



Changing State Operation 2004: On the Long Road to Local Control

One step forward, two steps back. On June 19, 2002 Commissioner William Librera announced a set of recommendations about state operated school districts to the NJ State Board of Education. The changes included sharing authority with the Board of Education in Newark and Paterson over the contract for State Superintendent and giving the Board responsibility for personnel. Within 12 months, the Commissioner had rolled back most of the changes.

Building a New Road. As of March 10, 2004, the Commissioner has not yet formally presented his recommendations to the NJ State Legislature or the NJ Board of Education. The recommendations are called NJQSAC or NJ Quality Single Accountability Continuum. They align the requirements of No Child Left Behind, Abbott and the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards to lessen the administrative burden and focus on success. Commissioner Librera's proposal is available on line at www.state.nj.us/education.

The changes Commissioner Librera envisions require action from two governing bodies. The NJ State Legislature must act in order to change, the requirements of state operation [18A:7A] as envisioned in NJQSAC. The NJ Board of Education must act to change the regulations that govern monitoring system [6A:30]. All these changes could be in place by December of 2004.

On April 7, 2004 the NJ Board of Education will have its first public discussion of the regulations.

✓What kind of changes to the law are being discussed?

Governance options:

The community would vote for one of these governance options 3 years after the return to local control.

Type of district	Type I	Type II	New [Type III?] Currently in use in Camden	New [Type IV?]
Who Serves?	Board Appointed by the Mayor	Elected Board-all at large	Mix of appointed and elected 3 by governor, 3 by Mayor, 3 voted at large	Community organization proposes an alternative structure.

Choosing a Superintendent:

Under current rules for state operation	New rules: Under partial control	New rules: Under full state control
State Superintendent appointed by the Commissioner of Education	Board hires Superintendent; Commissioner will embed a Highly Skilled Professional to work in areas of critical need	State Superintendent appointed by the Commissioner of Education. Highly Skilled Professional to work in areas of critical need

Decisions about operations-curriculum, legal, finance, personnel:

Under current rules for state operation	New rules: Under partial control	New rules: Under full state control
State Superintendent has full control for first years; Advisory board for 4 years	Superintendent and local board remain in place. New additional BOE members may be appointed by the Commissioner	State District Superintendent may be appointed. New additional BOE members may be appointed by the Commissioner
Sequentially, curriculum, legal and finance are voted upon by the Board of Education in an advisory capacity. State Superintendent has a veto over all actions of the BOE.	Performance is based on a set of benchmarks with periodic assessments. Highly Skilled Professional appointed to work in areas of critical need.	Performance is based on a set of benchmarks with periodic assessments. Highly Skilled Professional appointed to work in areas of critical need. Commissioner retains broad powers to intervene.

As these proposals are considered by the Legislature and the State Board of Education, we can expect changes. Stay tuned for ways to be involved in the deliberations.



Candidates Information follows on the next page.

Paterson Board of Education Candidates 2004.

The following information and photographs were provided by the candidates. PEF has not verified the information, but publishes it as a public service. Address questions directly to the candidates or to Irene Sterling at PEF, 973-881-8914.

Candidates for three year terms April 2004-2007. **Vote for three.**

Malikah Abdullah, 351 Hamilton Avenue. Home phone: 973-278-0645 Work Phone: 973-523-4955 Length of



residence in Paterson: 35 years. Employment: Executive director, Kidz Pre-School Academy. Education: Attended William Paterson University. Family: Eight adult children. Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Pasat Paterson board of Education member for 6 years. Three major issues: One of the greatest problems and dilemmas is operating in a state controlled district. Paterson has been under State control for almost 14 years and has not shown that it has the ability, the concern or the will to bring about a positive change for Paterson's children. Three major issues of concern to me are: 1. State Operation. 2. A State Superintendent that is allowed to operate without any restraints or accountability to anyone, not even the state itself. 3. Low test scores-as a result of teaching to the test as opposed to building a secure academic foundation which fosters children's ability to think and function independently.

Vivian English, 499 15th Avenue, Paterson, NJ 07504. Home phone: 973-742-3484 Work Phone: 973-321-0986 E-mail:



venglish@paterson.k12.nj.us or venglish_us@yahoo.com. Employment: Paterson Public School confidential secretary, Risk Management Department. Length of residence in Paterson: Born in Barnert Hospital and lived here most of life. Education: Attended Schools 19 & 5, graduated EHS, 1964; attended college. Family: A son and a granddaughter. Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Home School Council and SMT at Rosa Parks HS. Civic Involvements: Member, Madison Avenue Christian Reformed Church where she serves as youth leader, chairperson of Scholarship Fund and director of Youth Jubilee Employment program. Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months: 1 [watched at least 4 meetings on cable TV]. Three major issues: 1. Giving the Paterson students the best education possible. These children are innocent, and only know what they are taught. It is the responsibility of the parents, educators and community to insure they get the training they need to compete. We all should take an active part in this; we can't just sit by and watch. That is why I decided to run- to do whatever I can to see that

these students get what they need to succeed. 2. The twenty million dollars that was taken by the contractors is an outrage. The persons responsible should be punished. These contractors need to be monitored to make sure the work is being done correctly and that the money is being spent wisely. 3. Personnel hiring and promotions are of concern to me. At present Dr. Duroy has the final decision. Staff can only recommend applicants. This gives way to nepotism and favoritism. I feel some control should be given to the Board members in this area.

Errol S. Kerr, 216 E. 30th Street, Paterson NJ 07514. Home phone: 973-742-7042. E-mail: ekerr@gloryusa.com.



Employment: Logistic Department Supervisor-Glory USA Inc. Length of residence in Paterson: Lived here the majority of life. Education: B.A. in Business Administration, Ramapo College. Family: Married with two children and one grandson two years old. Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: No direct past involvement in the Paterson School System but taught GED classes on a voluntary basis at the Paterson Assembly of God Church in the 1990's. Civic Involvements: Vice President of the Caribbean Empowerment Program of NJ; Host annual Christmas Breakfast for children of Paterson. Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months: 4 [watch the proceedings religiously on Cable] Three major issues: 1. The establishment of Community Schools in the district that will give rise to greater parental & community involvement in the educational process. While the concept of community schools may be new to us, it has been the source of positive change for many schools in which it has been implemented. 2. A need for greater emphasis on early childhood education and development. It is important to be reminded that the foundation to a sound education starts in the early years of a child's life. Failure to capture the child's imagination in these early years as it relates to the basics fundamentals of reading, writing and mathematics could spell disaster in later years. 3. Better training for teachers to deal more effectively with the challenges of educating our children. Technology has created a dynamic tool for us to use in the educational arena, we must embrace it and use it for the development of our children.

Erik Lowe, 201 Sussex Street. Home phone: 973-931-6422 Work Phone: 973-247-2045 E-mail: loweerik@aol.com



Employment: Customer Relations Manager, Wachovia Bank. Length of residence in Paterson: 17 years. **Education:** Valdosta State College **Family:** 3 children. **Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools:** President [Alexander Hamilton Academy]; Home School Council Chairman [Parent Outreach]; School Leadership Council. **Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months:** 6. **Three major issues:** In the midst of this districts fiscal nightmare, it seems that our children and their education have been forgotten. Our children need and deserve better than what they are getting from this current board. They need effective and positive leadership. They need quality education. Our community is also hurting, the citizens of Paterson can no longer continue to tune in or attend monthly board meetings to see who is attacking who, instead of fighting each other, they need someone to fight for our children and their education. **1. Fiscal Accountability. 2. Safe School Facilities. 3. Quality Education.**

Alonzo Moody, 26 Emerson Ave. 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: 49 years. **Education:** BA Degree. **Family:** Married with three sons and four grandchildren. **Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools:** Board Member since take over. **Civic Involvements:** Passaic County Youth Commission; Passaic County Superior Court Committee on Minority; Paterson Municipal Alliance; Passaic county Steering Committee on Alcoholism; Paterson little League Basketball; Board member, YMCA. **Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months:** Three **major issues:** **1. Facilities. 2. Student Behavior 3. Academic Achievement.**

Augusto “Gus” Penaranda, 301 East 36th Street, Paterson NJ 07504. Home phone: 973-925-9505 Work Phone:



973-390-6561 Fax: 973-471-5415 E-mail: gusforboe.com. **Employment:** Community Relations Aide, Community Development City of Paterson. Length of residence in Paterson: entire life. **Education:** PS #14 and 5; Passaic County Tech. & Vo. HS; William Paterson University; BA in Political Science. **Family:** Juana and Augusto Penaranda. **Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools:** Coordinator in Middle School Model UN in PPS; Coordinator in Score At School Program in PPS; School Management Team PS#10; coordinator Silk City Academy Internship Program; Participant NEA's Read Cross America Program; Coordinator in Project Thank You for City of Paterson; Motivational Speaker for “Reaching Our Dreams” program: PS#10. **Civic Involvements:** Former Board Member of Hispanic Multi Purpose Service Center; Former Commissioner Cablevision Committee; **Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months:** 2. **Three major issues:** **1. I will commit the appropriate time needed to address concerns among the board itself, but concentrate most of my time to creating programs and implementing programs that will help the students reach their goals. One main responsibility of a BOE Commissioner is to become somewhat of**

a role model instead of another politician with a private agenda. 2 As a Board of Education Commissioner, I will continue to probe into the distribution of our funds and work toward increasing the amount of funds that actually go to each student instead of going to contractors and new positions created by private political agendas. 3. New School Construction is an important issue, but I feel that the quality of education our children are receiving is more important. What is happening is that too much time is being spent on the new buildings and not enough time is being spent on the problems within our schools now. New buildings and new furniture will not solve the hard-core problems in our school district.

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Sayegh, Vancheri and Vergara bio's on next page.

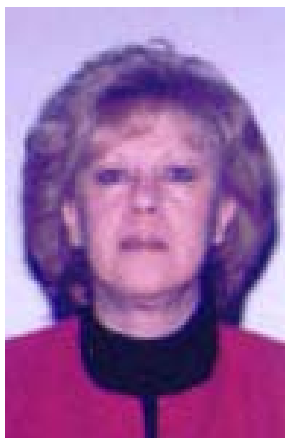
Andre Sayegh, 215 Dundee Avenue. Home phone: 973-278-7048 Work Phone: 973-614-6688. E-mail: dre40@aol.com.



Employment: Visiting Professor, Seton Hall University. Length of residence in Paterson: Lifelong, 29 years. **Education:** B.A. in History, Summa Cum Laude, Seton Hall University, M.A. Public Policy and Administration, Columbia University. **Family:** Single. **Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools:** Former state appointed Board liaison [2002-2004]. **Civic Involvements:** Paterson Rotary Club; District Chairman of Great Falls District, Boy Scouts of America; Hispanic Multi-Purpose Center Board of Directors; Paterson Education Fund Board of Directors; Inner Faith Performing Arts Center Board of Directors; Knights of Columbus; Toastmasters International; Friends of the Paterson Library; NAACP; Paterson Task Force Board of Directors. **Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months:** 6 [all]. **Three major issues:** 1. Fiscal and Educational Accountability. Every kid counts and every adult is accountable. However, our kids will continue to be counted out if we cannot account for millions of dollars. Twenty millions dollars means our kids are missing out. 2. Parental and Community Involvement. We must not only engage the stakeholders [i.e. taxpayers and parents] but we must empower them as well. Responsible and responsive board members **MUST** attend Home School Council meetings and visit schools. 3. Return to Local Control.

Our community and not Trenton must decide the fate of the 27,000 plus students in our school. If we are to fall flat on our faces we do not need the state pushing us from behind. We must build civic capacity to the point where we not only retain but also maintain control of our schools.

Anna Maria Vancheri, 296 Maitland Avenue. Home phone: 973-790-6831. Work Phone: 973-321-1323 x 2327.



Employment: Senior Payroll Clerk, City of Paterson. Length of residence in Paterson: 49 years. **Education:** Graduate of School 5 and JF Kennedy HS **Family:** Married to Tony and 4 children. **Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools:** School 27 PTA, 1978-96; JFK Home School Council, 1987-93; Paterson School Board 1987-91; Appointed by City Council to Advisory Board, 1991; Elected to School Board 1995 to present. School Board President, 1998-1999; 2000-2001. **Civic Involvements:** Founding member, Hillcrest Ball Club [1982], treasurer from 19987 to present. **Democratic Party:** County Committee Woman, 1984 to present, Co-city Leader, Co 2nd Ward Leader 1990 to present. **Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months:** all 8. **Three major issues:** 1. Parental Involvement. In order to provide the children of Paterson with a well-rounded education, parents must get more involved. By working together with teachers and administrators, parents can provide the additional support that their children need to succeed. This involvement can consist of attending parent/teacher conferences and visiting their child's school as often as possible. 2. The New Academies. I have been a strong supporter of the new academies that have been created throughout the city. These academies help to both alleviate over crowding and provide teachers with smaller and more effective classrooms. 3. Additional School Sites. We need to search for and locate

more property that can be used in the future as possible school sites. In addition to renovations made to existing buildings, we have built brand new facilities such as Panther and School #11. We need to continue to provide new, updated, and exceptional facilities for our children.

Daniel "Danny" Vergara, Sr., 249 5th Avenue, Paterson NJ 07524. Home phone: 973-279-4309. Work



Phone: 973-930-3276. E-mail: danvergarasr@aol.com **Employment:** Deputy Chief Inspector Department of Public Works. Length of residence in Paterson: 41 years. **Education:** Eastside H.S.; PCCC. **Family:** wife -Miriam, daughter-Crystal and son- Daniel Jr. **Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools:** Former Commissioner Paterson school board 2001. **Civic Involvements:** Scout troop 911 leader; Commissioner rent leveling board; president of Puerto Rican Dave Parade 2004; Commissioner of the Boys Scouts of America; Vice President of Roberto Clemente Board of Directors; PS#15 Basketball League Coordinator; Member of Saint Michael's Church night of Columbus; Coordinator of Parents and students on Education and recreation. **Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months:** all viewed by cable. **Three major issues:** Achieving the goal of No Child Left Behind. Accountability from Administration. Parent support groups and technology in

schools. Peer pressure and high school drop out. Team work with board members to set policy for the district. Having the tools and resources for principals and teachers to achieve the outmost education for our students. Supporting Special Education programs and Bilingual programs and getting more help so our kids can get evaluated sooner.