



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

October 2018

*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.*



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## **Paterson Children Need Your Vote!**

Let's start with the great news – Paterson Public Schools are being returned to local control! After 27 years of State control, the NJ State Board of Education voted in May to return the Paterson school district to the control of the local board of education. Just as we were here to witness the seizure in 1991, PEF was in the room to witness and celebrate the liberation!

The vote started a process that could take up to 2 years of planning before we get full local control. Superintendent Shafer, though she was selected by the community, is still contracted by the State during this transition period. The local school board and the administration has the bulk of the responsibility when it comes to making sure everything is in place for full control. However, there is a very important role for the general public.

First, the community must elect the right people to lead us through the transition. There are eighteen (Yes -18!) candidates vying for 5 seats on the Paterson School Board. Please make a concerted effort to get to know the candidates so you can decide which ones have our children's best interest at heart. The information in this Candidates Guide is a good start. You'll need much more exposure to get to know them. Come to our Candidates forum or watch it on the internet. Other groups will also be hosting forums and debates and we encourage you to go.

The second important role is that Paterson has to decide if we want a Type I (appointed) or Type II (elected) school board. Once made, this decision cannot be easily reversed so we ask you to consider it carefully. After 27 years of state control, would you want mayoral control for the school district? We currently have a mayor who is supportive of education but what about future mayors? Would you want to give up your right to elect a School Board to some unknown persons in the future? We think that 27 years of taxation without representation is enough! Let's hold on to our right to keep electing our leaders in the democratic process!

Let's elect the right people to lead our schools and let's keep our right to elect them annually!

Vote as if our children's future depend on it. They do!

# Paterson School Board Candidates 2018

The following information was provided by the candidates. Some candidates chose not to participate. PEF has not verified the information but publishes it as a public service. Address questions directly to the candidates.

## Candidates for 3-year terms [2018-2021]. Choose 3.

**Incumbents Oshin Castillo, Manuel Manny Martinez and Nakima Redmon as well as Melissa Baralt, Nelly Celi, Eddie Gonzalez, Ramon Joaquin, Eduardo Lanchipa, Gerard Robertson, Corey Teague**

**Melissa Baralt**, 53 Potomac Avenue. Home Phone: 973-742-1979. Work Phone: 973-278-5400. Cell Phone: 973-214-1997. Email: [Melissa\\_baralt@yahoo.com/mlb@berkeleycollege.edu](mailto:Melissa_baralt@yahoo.com/mlb@berkeleycollege.edu).



**Employment:** Berkeley College. Professor for the Liberal Arts and Sciences. **Length of residence in Paterson:** 26 years. **Education:** B.S. Biology and M.S. Molecular Biology (Montclair State University) PhD- Molecular Pathology and Immunology (Rutgers University). **Family:** Jon Rosario- Spouse, Liam Rosario – 5 year old son, Milan Rosario – 2 year old son. **Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools:** Look up, Reach Down LLC: We promote STEM Education and Professions. Career Fairs: I have participated in various career fairs to inform students of career and professional goals related to the science field, Health Careers program. In conjunction with Montclair state University we help students excel in Biology, Medical and Dental Schools. Independent Consulting: helping students to enter college and assisting Paterson students with financial aid and scholarships for eligible students. Served as a

judge for the Paterson Science Fairs in Kennedy High School. **Civic Involvement:** DonorsChoose.org. DANR (Dominican American National Roundtable) Youth. **Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months:** 0. **Three major issues:** (1) Educate: Keeping a main focus on Professional Development and Faculty engagement, Align student success efforts under a unified vision. Integrating student success strategies to help create time and resource efficiencies, reduce the likelihood of duplicated effort, and ensure all personnel can see how each initiative works together to achieve the Board of education goals. (2) Empower: Emphasize STEM education to empower and foster learning, reconnect with neighboring institutions to harbor collaborative learning initiatives, Redistribute funding to accommodate new learning and pedagogical initiatives, Focus on successful alumni and provide system wide initiatives via areas of specialty. (3) Equip: Reevaluate academic program and assessment tools, promote advance placements, dual enrollment and early college initiatives, redesign district communication tools for parents, aid parents with educational needs fostering positive employment and ushering advancement in Paterson.

**Oshin Castillo**, 419 Edmund Ave., Apt. 2. Cell: 862-264-0641. Email: [OshinCastillo27@gmail.com](mailto:OshinCastillo27@gmail.com).



**Employment:** Passaic County Freeholders Office. **Length of residence in Paterson:** 24 years. **Education:** BA International Relations, Fairleigh Dickinson University. **Family:** **Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools:** Board member for 3 years. **Civic Involvements:** **Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months:** 21. **Three major issues:** (1) Funding; we have been underfunded by the state for several years, which has hindered our children from having access to resources that they deserve. We have about 30,000 thousand students with various needs, being funded properly does not only allow us to meet those needs but to offer resources that other districts have. An extremely importance example is after school programming. (2) Facilities; we have school that are over 100 years old. Antiquated buildings do not promote learning. It is difficult for a child to learn to in hot classroom with no air condition, but because of the age of some of the buildings adding a simple window air condition is impossible. (3) High Schools; as a school district I believe that we have to prepare our children for what happens after they finish their education in our district. We have to prepare them not only on basic academics but prepare them for life. I

believe that when our students leave High School they should leave with more than just a High School Diploma. They should leave with certifications, college credits or with a trade. We should prepare our children for college, for the workforce or for both. Most of our students pay their own way to college and we need to make sure that we give them the resources that they need to accomplish their dreams.

**Nelly Celi** 19 E, 18<sup>th</sup> Street. Cell Phone: 973-797-9760. Email: [nelly4paterson@gmail.com](mailto:nelly4paterson@gmail.com). **Employment:** Outreach Coordinator, Passaic County Community College. **Length of residence in Paterson:** 35 years. **Education:** William Paterson College. **Family:** Married. **Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools:** Served as a team member of School 13 and 20. Sixteen years offering Girl Scout programs. **Civic Involvements:** Vice chair- State Educational Opportunity Fund Board, Board Member- Paterson Library and Museum, Board Member – Paterson Habitat for Humanity, Secretary – Grandparents as Parents Alliance, Board Member – Latino Leadership Alliance of New Jersey. **Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months:** 2. **Three major issues:** (1) As the Outreach Coordinator at the Passaic County Community College, I work with high school students who test at remedial Math and/or English.



This is concerning as our students are graduating high school and are not prepared for College. (2) School Security needs to be a priority for all. We need to be proactive and have in place measures that will assure the safety of our students and staff. (3) Building and establishing collaborations with nonprofits organizations to create or expand after school programs.

**Eddie Gonzalez**, 191 Lexington Avenue. Cell: 862-571-3444. Email: [Eddie@EddieGonzalez.com](mailto:Eddie@EddieGonzalez.com).



**Employment:** New Jersey Community Development Corp. (NJCDC), Special Assistant to CEO & Director of Community Outreach. **Length of residence in Paterson:** Born & Raised in Paterson. **Education:** Attended William Paterson Univ. and Berkeley College. **Family:** Married to my beautiful wife Jackie for over 13 years and father to two wonderful loving children, Joshua and Ellie. **Past and Current involvement in the Paterson Public Schools:** I was previously elected in 2009 to serve as a Commissioner on the Paterson Board of Education under Superintendent Dr. Donnie Evans, I helped rewrite the Shared Service Agreement for Hinchliffe Stadium, I was Co-chair of the last PPS 5-Year Facilities Planning Committee, I currently serve on School 29's Community Action Team, I have been the lead project

manager in building 10 new school playgrounds for students and community youth in partnership with Paterson Public Schools, I frequently attend dozens of school PTA/PTO meetings to present parents with new resources and services to help families in need of assistance, For the past 10 years I have mentored and taught leadership skills to 30 high school youth every year through the Paterson youth Council, I served over 250 students since heading the PYC, I have sponsored many youth and adult recreation teams over the past 6 years. **Civic Involvement:** Past Board Member on the Paterson Education Fund (PEF) for 7 years, President, Puerto Rican Parade Committee of Paterson, Inc., Founder of Latino Service Center (LSC), Sponsor of recreational sports teams, Co-lead the Hurricane Maria Relief efforts which we collected over 500,000 lbs of food, water and medical supplies for PR, Finance committee member and parishioner of St. Gerard Mejilla Church, Member of the committee to relaunch the Hillcrest Neighborhood Association, Founder of the Annual Hurricane Maria Memorial Mass ceremonies in honor of the nearly 3,000 lives lost in PR. **Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months:** 2 out of 6. I was out for months due to an accident requiring a severe knee surgery. **Three major issues:** (1) Funding & Curriculum: There is a need to evaluate and measure the results of many expensive programs which we may not have data proving that they are effective for our students. Thus, we should fund the cost of more rigorous programs that are evidence-based and are data proven to directly increase student performance at all grade levels, including bilingual and special education. (2) Facilities: Assess, adequately fund, and implement a plan to address school related projects that are considered a hazard or an impediment to a healthy and safe learning environment for students- which may include installing heats and/or air conditioners in classrooms as needed, creating new art and science lab spaces. Also, there should be a

playground built (in partnership with nonprofits as funding sources) at every elementary school to provide for a safe and healthier play space. (3) Reorganization and Training: Having local control come back to Paterson after 27 years of the State running the Paterson Public School District also means we have to govern our district responsibly. Therefore, commissioners need to have a great deal of understanding of their role and responsibilities as a member of the Board of Education. Reason being, we have to assure the State that we can attend to our own local affairs without getting into any ethic violations, including misuse of funds, powers or being directed by any external influences which may not be in the best interest for our children or our school district.

**Ramon Joaquin**, 179 Kearney Street. Cell: 973-572-0187. Email: [Ramon@patersonunitedforchange.com](mailto:Ramon@patersonunitedforchange.com).



**Employment:** Paterson Police Dept./Telecommunication Specialist. **Length of residence in Paterson:** 22 Years. **Education:** Bachelor's degree in business administration and Management. **Family:** Married 9 years to Evelyn Rosario, 8 month old son Ryan Joaquin. **Past and Current involvement in the Paterson Public Schools:** **Civic Involvement:** **Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months:** All. **Three major issues** (1) Finance- facing a shortfall of more than \$78 million in a budget that was approved for \$585 million this past February brings a concern to teachers, students, and taxpayers in the city. This current budget is a \$35 million increase from the previous budget of the past school year. For the last three years, the Paterson Public education has imposed more than 600 layoffs (including

teachers) and implemented various tax increased to taxpayers. Not having a viable solution to come up with the \$78 million that is predicted to be the shortfall will consist of more taxes implemented to the population, kids with fewer teachers and supplies to have a successful school year. (2) School Safety – I will implement technology to protect our schools better. Introducing analytics into the current surveillance system can better detect abnormalities and irregular patterns that may occur in school. Providing Metal detector for our high schools is a priority. Keeping guns and knives away from school premises is providing students with the concentration & adequate environment of learning. Technology is vital for security; it will automate many solutions to the problems that we currently don't have an answer. (3) Job Readiness- Providing every student with the tools to be successful is a goal that every commissioner should have on top of their list. Making the existent academies into vocational schools would allow our students to obtain the necessary skills need to be certified and job ready for the demanding world ahead

**Eduardo J. Lanchipa** Cell: 201-519-6564 .Email: [eduardoforboardofed@yahoo.com](mailto:eduardoforboardofed@yahoo.com). **Employment:**



**Social Worker. Length of residence in Paterson:** 19 years. **Education:** attended Don Bosco High School, Passaic County Community College. **Family:** Married 4 years to Yanderi Estrella, two children. **Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools:** **Civic Involvements:** **Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months:** All. **Three major issues:** (1) Finance- Facing a shortfall of more than \$78 million in a budget that was approved for \$585 million this past February brings a concern to teachers, students and taxpayers in the city. This current budget is a \$35 million increase from the previous budget of the past school year. For the last three years, the Paterson public education has imposed more than 600 layoffs (including teachers) and implemented various tax increased to taxpayers. Not having a viable solution to come up with the \$78 million that is predicted to be the shortfall will consist

of more taxes implemented to the population, kids with fewer teachers and supplies to have a successful school year. (2) After School Activities – The Shortage of effective after school programs is one of the biggest concerns in our public school system. We are going to enforce powerful after school programs focusing in boosting academic performance, this programs can bring a wide range of benefits to our youth, families and communities. By promoting physical health, reducing behavior and providing a safe structure environment for the children of our working community. (3) Job Readiness – Providing every student with the tools to be successful is a goal that every commissioner should have on top of their list. Making the existent academies into

vocational schools would allow our students to obtain the necessary skills need to be certified and job ready for the demanding world ahead.

**Manuel Martinez, Jr.** 19 Market Street, #201. Cell: Email: [memartinez@optonline.net](mailto:memartinez@optonline.net). **Employment:**



**Length of residence in Paterson:** Lifelong resident. **Education:** Master's Degree in Educational Leadership. **Family: Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools:** Taught 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher in PPS. **Civic Involvements:** Numerous. **Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months:** 15. **Three major issues:** (1) Increased Academic Rigor – Ensuring that our scholars receive quality instruction is a top priority. High expectations coupled with targeted instructional strategies will bring us closer to the student success we want to see for our scholars not only in PPS but beyond. (2) Budget Planning – We must be looking two to three years down the line as we prepare our budgets moving forward. Proactively planning will help us avoid untimely circumstances arising and creating unforeseen problems. (3) Facilities – We are still on record as having the oldest facilities in the state of NJ. We must work simultaneously to not only improve our current schools but also have new constructions in our district.

**Nakima Redmon,** 54-4 Colonial Avenue. Home Phone:973-595-1073. Cell Phone: Email:



[Kredmon54@gmail.com](mailto:Kredmon54@gmail.com). **Employment: Length of residence in Paterson:** Life-long resident. **Education:** Bachelor of Arts from the College of New Jersey. **Family: Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: Civic Involvements:** Vice President of the Paterson Board of Education, Planning Board Commissioner (County of Passaic), Commissioner of Historical Preservation Commission (City of Paterson), Former Board member for Paterson Task Force for Community Action, Inc., Former Planning Board Commissioner (City of Paterson), Member of National Council of Negro Women (Life-Time Member), NAACP Member. **Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months:** 14. **Three major issues:** (1) Improving the culture and curriculum at Garrett Morgan High School. (2) Improving and adding new school facilities throughout the district. (3) Working with the city to streamline and improve our shared services agreements (i.e. more recreation/Afterschool programs).

**Gerard A. Robertson,** 396 Trenton Avenue. Cell Phone: 973-910-0821. Email:



[gerard.robertson1@gmail.com](mailto:gerard.robertson1@gmail.com). **Employment:** Director, Center for Academic Success. **Length of residence in Paterson: Education:** PhD. In Educational Psychology. **Family: N/A. Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools: N/A. Civic Involvements:** Youth empowerment through Fordham University/SPCDC. **Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months:** 3. **Three major issues:** (1) Classroom overcrowding where the failure to achieve the meeting of every student's needs produces negative feelings towards school and their own work, in general. Also, suggestion that in some public schools, overcrowding and crumbling buildings go hand in hand. According to this view, schools overburdened by too many students are likely to experience more wear and tear to their facilities.

(2) Rigor in the classroom, anchored in the belief that every student can be successful given adequate time and sufficient support. There is a belief that the only way to assure success for everyone is to lower standards and lessen rigor. Such beliefs often mask an underlying sense that some students are less capable and that their success will hold back those who are more capable. (3) The state is still intervening in the school district and we must continue to the path of correction, nothing has truly been gained yet.

**Corey Teague**, 65 Prince Street. Home Phone: 973-782-4011. Cell Phone: 973-767-5980. Email:

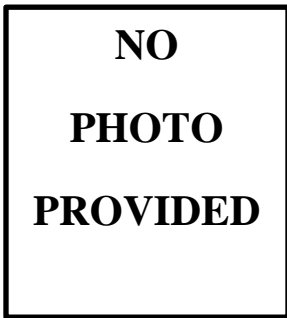


[clewisteague@gmail.com](mailto:clewisteague@gmail.com). **Employment:** Activist/Volunteer. **Length of Residence in Paterson:** 30 years. **Education:** H.S. Diploma, 10 years of life experience in child advocacy (equivalent to a bachelor's degree). **Ministry:** licensed as a minister at the age of 14 under the highway Church of Christ (Bishop Liston Page, Sr.), Licensed as an elder at age 19 under Bethesda House of Mercy (Pastor Ray Singletary) licensed as a co-pastor at age 21 under New Generation Healing & Deliverance Tabernacle (Pastor Louise Teague), Studied holistic behavioral therapy, reiki, reflexology and music therapy. **Family:** Keshanna (wife) Kaniyah (daughter), Corey Jr (son). **Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools:** served as member of Paterson school board from 2012-2016. Served as a member of the Paterson Public schools early Child Advisory Council 2013-15, served as a parent/child advocate from 2009-present. **Civic Involvement:** I am a regular in Trenton. I offer testimony on behalf of the children of Paterson before the state senate, assembly and state board of education consistently. My goal is to make the state aware of the fact that Paterson is legally owed funding under the SFRA of 2008. **Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months:** 4. **Three major issues:** (1) Funding: we are still facing a multimillion dollar shortfall in our school district. I believe this is a root cause for a lack of after school programs. (2) Communication: There seems to remain a constant issue with the level of communication between parents, teachers and administrators. (3) Buildings: we have some of the oldest buildings in the entire state. There is still so much more can do to better our buildings.

### Candidates for a 1-year unexpired term [2018-2019]. Choose 2.

**Incumbent Vincent Arrington as well as Eddy Olivares, Eddy Pichardo, Amany Ramadan, Davon Roberts, Robinson Rondon, Justin Rucker, Mosleh Uddin**

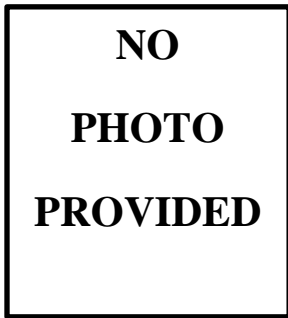
**Vincent Arrington**, 317 East 41<sup>st</sup> Street. Cell Phone: 201-925-4189. Email: [vincentarrington@me.com](mailto:vincentarrington@me.com)



**Employment:** Lead systems Programmer at United Parcel Service. **Length of residence in Paterson:** 15 years. **Education:** Capella University Doctor of Philosophy in Business Management Student, Rutgers University Master Certificate in Leadership, Nyack College Master in Organizational Leadership, William Paterson Leadership Certification, Nyack College Bachelors in Science in Business Administration, Passaic County Community College Associate in Business Administration. **Family:** 2 children that are currently enrolled in Paterson Public Schools or who have graduated from Paterson Public Schools. Mother is a retired Accountant from Paterson Public Schools. **Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools:** Current Paterson Board of Education Commissioner that actively attends committee, workshop and regular board meetings. Currently participates in Finance Technology and Family and Community Engagement. **Civic Involvement** Current Executive Board member of Omega Psi Phi, Lambda Upsilon Chapter of Paterson New Jersey, Current Co- Chairperson of a Mentoring Program for Paterson Youth, Current Co-Chairperson for United Way Fundraising Campaign at United Parcel Service, Actively engaged in various community projects. **Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months:** 6. **Three major issues:** (1) Paterson Public Schools has been under State Control since 1991 and has finally started the process of returning to local control. The implementation, execution, monitoring and managing of the 2-year plan is crucial for Paterson Public Schools district and Paterson Students. The Administration and BOE will play a key role in sustaining local control. (2) Paterson Public Schools infrastructure is feeling the impact of years of underfunding. The District has done it's best to maintain aging buildings with limited resources. Paterson Public Schools is taking steps to improve the infrastructure by adding a new Middle School (Don Bosco), replacing aging boilers and implementing energy saving programs. (3) Underfunding also impacted Paterson Public Schools Technology infrastructure and has resulted with delays in updating or replacing old technology. The District has created a

plan to address many technology concerns. The district is rolling out laptop devices for all High School Classrooms and is integrating curriculum into the devices.

**Amany Ramadan** 31 Buffalo Avenue. Cell Phone: 973-389-3949. Email: [laramadan@gmail.com](mailto:laramadan@gmail.com)



**Employment:** Enrollment Services Assistant Passaic County Community College. **Length of residence in Paterson:** Born and Raised. **Education:** BA in Sociology and Minor in Family and Justice Studies. **Family:** Raised in a happy, educated, and protective family. **Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools:** I have attended the Paterson Public Schools in different leans as a student, also as a Teacher Assistant. **Civic Involvements:** In my youth I have committed to volunteering in different organizations for example as event planner at ICPC teacher assistant, food kitchen at Smile, Humble organization. **Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months:** Unfortunately it conflicted with my education and work schedule.

**Three major issues:** (1) There are different issues that arise in the Paterson Board of Education. Some of the issues that we have is the Dropouts Rate, Parent involvement and its budget.

**Robinson Rondon,** 958 East 28<sup>th</sup> Street. Cell Phone: 973-583-3308. EMAIL:



[Robinson@patersonunitedforchange.com](mailto:Robinson@patersonunitedforchange.com). **Employment:** Field Scheduler at Stryker Orthopaedic. **Length of Residence in Paterson:** 30 years. **Education:** Associate Degree in Criminal Justice Liberal Arts. **Family:** Married 3 years to Rockalina Rondon. **Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools:** N/A. **Civic Involvement** N/A. **Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months:** N/A.

**Three major issues:** (1) Paterson has a budget of \$585 million in the public school system which should be enough to pay for everything students, teachers, school staffers, transportation, and etc. Yet, the city continues to give the educational system more money, teachers are being laid off, and Patersonians keep paying more taxes. (2) After school programs – There are very few after school programs being offered to students that can help them academically or help them release some of the stress they endure in school like sports, board games, different clubs, and etc. Parents need the help of the school system because many of them get out of work after 3:00 pm and their children are unsupervised for 2 and 3 hours. (3) Special Needs Students- Need to provide our special needs students more attention and more teachers. Need more schools that are specifically made with the equipment and resources needed to provide our special needs students the best chance to succeed.

**Justin Rucker,** 255 Governor Street. Home phone: 973-955-9294. Cell Phone: 862-287-3319. Email:



[Realchange507@gmail.com](mailto:Realchange507@gmail.com). **Employment:** Patient Access Representative, St Joseph's University Medical Center. **Length of residence in Paterson:** 31 years. **Education:** New Jersey Army National Guard (2013-2016) Associate of Arts: Nurse Education current, Passaic County Community College. **Family:** 2 daughters (Niema and Brielle) 1 step daughter (Ava). **Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools:** Advocate for the Paterson youth that attend our school system. **Civic Involvements:** Current Member of the Save the Village organization. **Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months:** 1(due to my work schedule I watch the live streams via social media).

**Three major issues:** Three major issues that I see are (1) Chronic Absenteeism. (2) The lack of funding from the state, (although we are getting 20 million dollars, from the state now, our district has been underfunded some 280 million over the past 7 years.) (3) The third issue would be what is the current plan to make sure that our transition to local control is a smooth transition? Does the district have the resources needed for this venture to be successful? Our children deserve the best education possible that will prepare them for whatever it is that they wish to pursue in their lives. And it is our duty and obligation to ensure that each and every one of our children has what they need in preparation for the real world.

**Mosleh Uddin, Nickname, if any:** Moose. 132 Albion Avenue. Cell Phone: 862-684-1004. Email:

**NO  
PHOTO  
PROVIDED**

[Mosleh.uddin520@gmail.com](mailto:Mosleh.uddin520@gmail.com). **Employment:** N/A. **Length of residence in Paterson:** Lifelong Resident. **Education:** Bachelor's from William Paterson University. **Family:** Oldest and only son and have three siblings. **Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools:** Attended School #19 and School #5. Also an alumni of John F. Kennedy High School. **Civic Involvements:** Currently I'm a mentor for two dozen kids upon dozens of children throughout the city. I am actively involved throughout the city to get more kids involved in athletic activities. I'm constantly fundraising and connecting sponsors to ensure our children have something positive to do. I have organized a few of our athletic tournaments to sponsor community projects and scholarships for children. My passion for this comes from the fact that every child needs

a mentor and someone to guide them towards the straight path to success. We have a lot of negative influences in the city but I believe in creating opportunities for our children to succeed. **Number of Board meetings attended in the last six months:** 5. **Three major issues:** (1) One of the issues is the sheer fact that our student are not comparable to their suburban counterparts when leaving Paterson Public Schools. Our college completion rate is dangerously low and we lack a comprehensive career readiness program. (2) Second major issues, I feel is the lack of fiscal responsibility and forecasting. We have failed time and time again to budget wisely and adequately priority projects. I find it a terrible service to the taxpayers of Paterson that their dollars are not being used efficiently. (3) Last I believe that as a city within an economic disadvantage, we should insure that every child is fed with a well-balanced and highly nutritious meal during the school day. The reality is that many of our children do not have the luxury of eating full meals at home. Beyond any other considerations, we can universally agree that our children deserve the best meals we can provide to them. Proper nutrition will help reach our bottom line of academic achievement.

**The following candidates did not provide any information:**

**Eddy Olivares  
Eddy M. Pichardo  
Davon Roberts**

**Look for the school board candidates section at the bottom of your general election ballot.**



**Know before you**

**Join us on Monday, October 15, 2018 for our Candidates Forum.  
5:30PM  
90 Delaware Avenue**

**Come early – There will be no entrance once filming begins!!!**

A video link will be available on our website after October 23, 2018 – [www.paterson-education.org](http://www.paterson-education.org)



## Visit these websites for more information on Education issues that affect Paterson Public Schools



<http://paterson-education.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/PatersonEducation/>



[www.paterson.k12.nj.us](http://www.paterson.k12.nj.us) The district's official website.



[www.state.nj.us/education](http://www.state.nj.us/education) Contains all the rules governing our schools and our School Progress Reports.



[www.edlawcenter.com](http://www.edlawcenter.com) For information on the School Funding Reform Act of 2008 and other NJ Education policy issues.



<http://www.dignityinschools.org> challenges the systemic problem of pushout in our nation's schools and advocates for the human right of every young person to a quality education and to be treated with dignity.

## What the Board of Education Does

Under the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, the State is responsible for providing education for its citizens [the “thorough and efficient system of free, public schools” clause]. The State establishes local school boards and requires them to run the schools under its [the State’s] rules. The powers of the School Board are limited; it operates under a very comprehensive set of regulations known as NJ Administrative Code 6A. As a district in transition to local control, the Paterson School Board has full voting rights but the Commissioner of Education maintains veto power.

The School Board’s most important role is to hold the school system accountable for educating Paterson children.

## Board of Education Members



Ms. Oshin  
Castillo,  
President



Ms. Nakima  
Redmon,  
Vice President



Mr. Vincent  
Arrington



Mr. Emanuel  
Capers



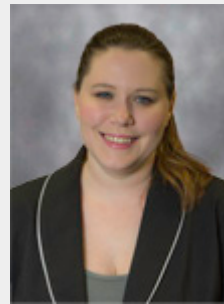
Dr. Jonathan  
Hodges



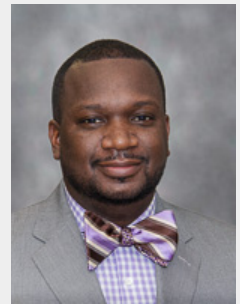
Mr. Manuel  
Martinez



Mr. Joel D.  
Ramirez



Ms. Jessica  
Schutte



Mr. Kenneth  
Simmons

## The NJ School Board Oath of Office

Every member of the Board of Education takes the following oath of office:

“I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the governments established in the United States and this state, under the authority of the people, so help me God\*. I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I possess the qualifications prescribed by law for the office of member of a board of education, and that I am not disqualified as a voter pursuant to R.S. 19:4-1 nor disqualified due to conviction of a crime or offense listed in N.J. S. 18A:12-1, and that I will faithfully, impartially and justly perform all the duties of that office according to the best of my ability. So help me God.”

\*No individual shall be required to swear or affirm that part of the oaths which states “So help me God.”

While school board members are elected by local citizens, they are responsible to the State of New Jersey. Under the New Jersey Constitution, they are responsible for providing a “thorough and efficient” education. Our State Supreme Court has interpreted that to mean an education that makes all students competitive in the market place and able to be good citizens.



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

Questions about this guide may be addressed to Rosie Grant, PEF, 973-881-8914.

### **Our Children Can't Vote but You Can!**



**School Board Election Day is November 6, 2018.**



# **Vote**

**As if your children's futures depend on it.**

**Because they do!**

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