



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

September 2019

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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Vote for Our Children's Future!

It's time to select our Board of Education Commissioners for 2020. One year ago, the people of Paterson voted overwhelmingly to retain the right to elect our School Board representatives. We believe it was the correct choice for our district. Now that we've claimed that right, it becomes our duty. On November 5, Paterson registered voters will exercise that right by selecting three (3) of the seven (7) candidates.

The successful candidates will work with the rest of the Board to lead Paterson Public Schools through the second year of transitioning to Local Control. The Board must work with the Superintendent and her staff to prove to the State of NJ that we have the capacity to govern our own school district.

Next year, the Board will have a particular challenge. Given that we are in a transition process, the district is challenged not only to maintain the gains that were made over the past several years but must also show improvement, despite State underfunding, massive staff reduction and inadequate resources. In fact, NJ Education Commissioner Repollet recently told Paterson administrators they are "on the clock!" Our voters must decide which of the candidates are up to this challenge. Who will recommend and vote for policies that serve the interest of Paterson children? Who will stand up for our kids? Who will fight for our kids?

The information in this Educated Voters Guide is provided as a public service to help you make that choice. We hope that you will use it as an introduction to the candidates and what they have to offer. We also encourage you to find other ways to learn more about the candidates. PEF's Candidate's Forum will be on Monday, October 7th at John F. Kennedy High School TV Studio. Please join us for the forum or watch the video, which we will post on our Facebook page.

Voting for our School Board is our duty. Vote as if our children's future depend on it. It does!

Paterson School Board Candidates 2019

The following information was provided by the candidates. PEF has not verified the information but publishes it as a public service. Grammatical corrections have been made only where necessary. Please address questions directly to the candidates.

Candidates for 3-year terms [2020-2022]. Choose 3.

Incumbents: Emanuel Capers and Robinson Rondon as well as Jeys Abreu, Vincent Arrington, Dania Martinez, Iris Rigo, Corey Teague

Jeys Abreu, 972 E. 23rd Street. **Home Phone:** 862-239-9073. **Work Phone:** 201-472-4200. **Cell Phone:** 973-954-1370. **Email:** Jeysabreu21@gmail.com. **Employment:** CDO Chamberlain Group, **Length of Residence in Paterson:** 28 years. **Education:** High School, Graduated Collision Repair Technician. **Family:** Kennia Santana (wife), Edward Santana (son), Sheilan Santana (daughter), Brianna Abreu (daughter), Jeys Abreu Jr. (son) Anthony Abreu (son). **Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools:** Paterson Youth League. Involved in recruiting and coaching young aspiring players. Involved in several toy drives and school supply giveaways. **Civic Involvement:** Involved in several Paterson citywide health fairs. Paterson Baseball league- playing, coaching and detailing baseball games with local Paterson residents. Paterson softball league- playing, coaching and helping to strengthen league ties with the community. **Number of Board Meetings Attended in the Last Six Months:** 0. **Three major issues:** (1) Maintain Parent



Advocacy – Being informed. Helping parents to be completely informed about decisions that affect their children. We all have to be familiar with the specific challenges that as a community face. I feel strongly that advocating and assisting parents is the best way to achieve success. For many Spanish speakers, the concerns regarding their children is delayed because of language barriers. (2) Increase Recreational Activities – Sports and recreation can be a way to build relationships with many of our at-risk youth. Although some recreational programs exist, there needs to be strengthening of these recreational programs, and inclusiveness will allow all to partake. (3) Bullying Awareness- I think it is essential to address bullying and find a way to properly deal with the problem before and after it arrives. We must include a plan that will address concerns as they happen and provide feedback to both parents and students. There should be a visible detail and resolution that puts parents at ease regarding bullying.

Vincent Arrington, 317 East 41st Street. **Cell:** 201-925-4189. **Email:** vincentarrington@gmail.com. **Employment:** Systems Programmer Manager at United Parcel Service. **Length of Residence in Paterson:** 16 years. **Education:** Capella University Doctor of Philosophy in Business Management Current Student, Rutgers University Master Certificate in Leadership, William Paterson Leadership Certification, Nyack College Master in Organizational Leadership, 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 School. **Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools:** Past Board of Education Commissioner that attends workshop and regular board meetings. Previously participated in Finance, Athletics,



Technology and Family and Community Engagement Committees. **Civic Involvements:** Current - Executive Board Member of Omega Psi Phi, Lambda Upsilon Chapter of Paterson; Co-Chair of a Mentoring Program for Paterson youth; Co-Chair/Coach for Youth T-Ball Team; Co-Chair for a Scholarship Committee; Previous - Co-Chairperson for United Way Fundraising Campaign at United Parcel Service; Conducted Youth Summer Book Club; Co-Hosted Mental Health Forum at International High School; Participates in Career Day at School of Information and Technology annually; Facilitates Career Day visits to UPS IT headquarters to promote careers in Technology; Participated in the Eastside Football Team Community cleanup; Honored the Kennedy Boys Basketball Team for winning County Championship; Participates in Read Across America annually; Attends various PTO meetings on a regular basis; Attends PPS community forums consistently; Speaker at 8th Grade Ring Ceremony at Young Men's Leadership Academy. **Number of Board Meetings Attended in the Last Six Months:** 4. **Three major issues:** (1) PPS has introduced a new reading initiative with the goal of increasing reading levels with students in lower grade levels. The new reading initiative has produced favorable results, however more work is needed. If elected to the board I will advocate for more reading intervention programs that use technology to keep students interest. (2) Underfunding the by the State has caused a shortfall that has results in layoffs of critical teachers. The results of the underfunding has also increased class size, adding additional burden to our teachers. The School Funding Reform Act (SFRA) has it challenges and if elected to the Board I will advocate for full funding for Paterson. (3) PPS 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 transition plan is critical for Paterson Public Schools and Paterson Students.

Emanuel Capers, Nickname, Comish. 54 Quartz Lane. **Cell Phone:** 973-572-5223. **Email:**



teamcapers@gmail.com. **Employment:** East Orange Public Schools. **Length of Residence in Paterson:** 34 years. **Education:** Paterson Public School #30 K-8th, High School Don Bosco Paterson, William Paterson University. **Family:** Parents, Mother Lourdes Capers (Early Childhood teacher), Father Rev. Gregory Capers (Pastor in the City Paterson over 30 years), Wife Christiana Capers, 3 children, Zy'Lra, Leah and our newest member of the family Emanuel Capers Jr. aka EJ. **Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools:** Been involved with Paterson Public schools for over 10 (ten) years. I worked for the district before becoming a board member as well as coached for Eastside High school. I also supported after school programs as well as sponsored class trips and other Garden programs. **Civic Community Involvements:** The Brothers Organization, Founder of the 4th & Inches Foundation, Amistad Commission, Black Lives Matter Organization, NAACP Organization, New Jersey Black Educators Association,

Passaic County School Boards Association. **Number of Board Meetings Attended in the Last Six Months:** I attended all the school board meetings plus committee meetings and workshops meeting, and PTO meetings. **Three major issues:** (1) I will continue fighting for all of our classrooms to be a modern learning environment for our students. Since I have been on the board, we are working to become a 1 to 1 district where all of our students receive a laptop. I will continue to fight for updated science labs, libraries, and technology centers in all of our schools. (2) My focus and energy will be on high school pathways and how these pathways we offer must reflect today's current job market. (3) I will continue to advocate for overall school safety, for example: school bus safety, security in our schools and security at all of our school events. Lastly, I will continue to hold our district fiscally accountable, so our budget reflects a fair and quality education for all of our students.

Dania Martinez, 151 Sheridan Avenue. **Cell:** 973-861-9253. **Email:** daniamartinez@gmail.com.



Employment: Hudson Arts & Science Charter School Social Worker. **Length of Residence in Paterson:** 36 years. **Education:** Bachelor's Degree in Spanish (William Paterson University, Master's Degree in Social work. **Family:** Aaliyan Tupete, Daughter, Nicholas Cebalos, son. **Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools:** Case management for youth at risk/Behavioral Assistant. **Civic Involvement:** Owner of HERstory. **Number of Board Meetings Attended in the Last Six Months:** 5. **Three major issues:** Social and emotional wellness, bullying, and parent transparency. Social and emotional wellness of our children are crucial for their learning in the classroom and growth. Providing our children with resources and techniques that will address any concerns of mental instability and social disparities will make for happier children. With this, bullying within our

schools will decrease and educating our parents about the importance of mental health and how they can be a part of their child's development will create a harmonious balance. Parental support and education are crucial in addressing these major issues.

Corey L. Teague, 65 Prince Street. **Home:** 973-782-4011. **Cell:** 973-572-0187. **Email:**



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. Currently regional elder with the Greater Assembly Holy house of Prayer.

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 2013-2015. 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. I am also a community activist who advocates daily for the Paterson community. **Number of Board Meetings Attended in the Last Six Months:** 4 in addition to meetings with the superintendent on a regular basis. **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 we can do to better our building.

No Photo - Iris Rigo, 336 East 26th Street, Apt 2. **Cell:** 973-861-2785. **Email:** Irisrigo27@gmail.com.

Employment: Access tax & accounting service LLC, Secretary. **Length of Residence in Paterson:** 17 years. **Education:** Business administration associate. **Family:** Married with 3 children. **Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools:** Graduate of Eastside High School and also have a child attending a Paterson Public School. **Civic Involvement:** Have been involved with the youth ministry for 4 years. **Number of Board Meetings Attended in the Last Six Months:** N/A. **Three major issues:** The nutrition at the school, education for special needs students, and not enough teachers at the schools.

Robinson Rondon, 958 East 28th Street. Cell: 973-583-3308. Email: rondon86@hotmail.com.



Employment: Stryker Orthopedic, Field Scheduler. **Length of Residence in Paterson:** Born and raised in Paterson. **Education:** Paterson P.S. 18, PCTI, and PCCC. **Family:** Married to Rockalina Rondon. **Past and Current Involvement in the Paterson Public Schools:** A Commissioner for the Paterson Board of Education and I have 8 years working with the students of Paterson Public Schools with the youth ministry in my church.

Number of Board Meetings Attended in the Last Six Months: All, but 1. **Three**

major issues: (1). One is not being awarded with the adequate funds by the state to run a district the size of Paterson. (2). Next we need more after school programs that will help our students grow academically and socially. (3). Last, we need to do a better job at retaining the teachers that we know are doing a great job for or students and district.

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

Join us on Monday, October 7, 2019 for our Candidates Forum.

5:30PM

John F. Kennedy Complex, 61-127 Preakness Ave.



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

A video link will be available on our website after October 21, 2019 – 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 The district's official website.



www.state.nj.us/education Contains all the rules governing our schools and our School Progress Reports.



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. Emanuel
Capers



Dr. Jonathan
Hodges



Mr. Manuel Martinez, Jr.



Mr. Eddy
Olivares



Mr. Joel D.
Ramirez



Mr. Robinson Rondon



Mr. Kenneth L.
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.

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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 5, 2019



Vote

As if your children's futures depend on it.

Because they do!



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