

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES RESOLUTIONS  
TO BEGIN TRANSITION OF LOCAL CONTROL  
TO PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

PATERSON, New Jersey, May 2, 2018 – New Jersey State Board of Education (Trenton, New Jersey) voted today in favor of initiating the process of withdrawal of Paterson Public Schools from partial State intervention. The New Jersey Department of Education (DOE), under the direction of Acting Commissioner Lamont O. Repollet, will now work with the district to develop and implement a full transition plan to establish the framework for the return to local control of the district.

“This is a proud moment for Paterson and a testament to the hard work taking place each and every day at our schools and district office,” said Paterson’s Acting State District Superintendent, Eileen Shafer. “In 2009, we began a major transformation of the Paterson Public Schools system. Since then, this district has made significant improvements from rising graduation rates to healthier school cultures; and our last QSAC visit yielded high scores in all five district performance areas. I would like to thank the district administrators and our extraordinary principals and teachers who helped us achieve this goal. I am also extremely appreciative of the collaborative efforts of our entire staff, students, parents, community partners, the entire Paterson community, and of course, our past and current Board members. Finally, I would like to thank Acting Commissioner Repollet for today’s recommendation to the Board and his support of our work. We will stay focused on our goals and sustain our operational performance in order to continue to improve our academic performance. The 28,000 children we serve are counting on us to prepare them for a bright future and together, we can.”

Paterson School Board President Oshin Castillo added, “We have waited over 26 years for the return of local control and now this day has finally come to fruition. I would like to acknowledge our past and current Board members who have worked tirelessly to prove that Paterson is fully committed to the education of our children. We have taken all of the appropriate steps to affirm that we should have control over our schools; and we are looking forward to working with our selected Superintendent and Acting Commissioner Repollet as we go through the transition process. I would like to thank all of our instructional staff for their hard work and dedication. This Board stands committed in ensuring the best possible future for all of our children.”

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**About Paterson Public Schools**

Paterson Public Schools is the second largest school district in New Jersey with over 28,000 students from pre-k through grade 12. The district’s mission is to prepare all children for college and career...together we can! For more information, visit [www.paterson.k12.nj.us](http://www.paterson.k12.nj.us)

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