

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PATERSON SCHOOLS AND PATERSON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION APPROVE SIDEBAR AGREEMENT FOR SPEECH LANGUAGE THERAPISTS

Hourly Rates Increase for Specific Special Education Programs

PATERSON, New Jersey, January 23, 2018 — Paterson Public Schools and the Paterson Education Association (PEA) have reached a temporary sidebar agreement to modify the hourly rate for speech therapists to \$75/hour (an increase from \$34/hour) for beyond normal school day programs that will take place through August 31, 2018. The District and the PEA reached this settlement in a joint effort to address the critical issue of delivering compensatory time for speech services. Speech Language therapists hired for the district's Saturday Academy, afterschool or summer programs will receive the increased hourly rate.

Acting State District Superintendent Eileen Shafer commented, "Many of our students require speech therapy yet we have been challenged in our efforts to secure qualified staff for this specialized service. I want to thank Mr. McEntee for working with us to find an immediate resolve. This hourly rate increase will enable us to hire additional speech therapists at a competitive rate; but most importantly, we will be able to provide the needed compensatory services for our students."

Paterson Education Association President, John McEntee noted, "Our students' needs come first; and it is imperative that our district works diligently to find solutions to meet educational challenges. The Union is pleased to step in and work collaboratively with Acting Superintendent Shafer to ensure that our students receive all of the emergency speech related services owed to them. We hope that the District will continue to work with the Union to ensure that students and employees receive all of the resources necessary to succeed."

Additionally, as part of the sidebar agreement, the District and the PEA have negotiated one extra "Family Illness" day for New Roberto Clemente middle school and the Senator Frank Lautenberg School/School 6 staff who worked the extended day program for the 2016-2017 school year and filed a grievance for compensation for time worked during that period. The additional day will revert to a "Sick Day" if not used prior to June 30, 2018.

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

About Paterson Education Association

The Paterson Education Association represents more than 3,100 educators serving the students of Paterson Public Schools and the Paterson, NJ, community. Learn more at <http://www.patersonea.org>

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