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PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS REPORTS PROGRESS ON ENERGY SAVINGS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (ESIP)

Modifications underway at Paterson Public Schools to save more than \$15 million over 18 years

PATERSON – Paterson State District Superintendent Eileen F. Shafer today applauded the progress on the implementation of the district’s Energy Savings Improvement Program (ESIP), which is projected to save the district more than \$15 million in energy costs during the 18-year term of the program.

“These are tremendous steps forward in improving our school buildings for our students and staff, and saving money for Paterson taxpayers,” said Shafer. “I want to thank our Facilities Department team for the progress we’ve made to date, and we look forward to the end of this phase of the project in the not-to-distant future.”

“Any money we can save in energy costs is money we can potentially spend on educating children in Paterson,” said Board of Education President Oshin Castillo. “The ESIP initiative is bringing new life into our school buildings. Hopefully, it will help bring new resources to our education programs.”

“We are so excited to get started on this long-awaited project. Through this ESIP project, the District will take a major step in energy efficiency and sustainability,” said Director of Energy and Project Control Rodney L. Williams. “What makes this project so special is not just the energy efficiency component but the opportunity for the students of Paterson School District participating as a learning project said Rodney Williams, Paterson Director of Energy and Project Control.

“I commend all of the stakeholders and the vision of the Board Commissioners and Superintendent for taking this bold step to bring much needed infrastructure improvements and energy conservation measures to the Paterson Public Schools,” said Executive Director of Facilities Steve Morlino. “The team assembled will ensure this project is sustainable through the next several decades and will benefit students through more comfortable energy efficient facilities without placing any additional financial obligations on city taxpayers.”

At the district’s Board of Education meeting last night, board commissioners received a report on the progress of Phase I of the ESIP project, which focuses on 17 schools in the district.

Roofs were resurfaced and prepared for solar panel installation at nine schools. Public Schools 4 and 9 are the first to have their solar panels installed, and ultimately 10 schools will have solar panels installed.

Installation of energy-saving light emitting diode (LED) lighting is nearly complete at 16 schools. LED lighting uses 60 percent less energy than the fluorescent lighting being replaced,

with the majority of the new LED lighting being in classrooms, offices and corridors. Upgrades are being made to lighting in gymnasiums, cafeterias and other areas.

Morlino reported to Board of Education commissioners on Thursday that the district had already saved about \$38,000 during July and August with the installation of the LED lighting, and that the savings would be used to offset anticipated rock salt and some overtime costs related to snow removal.

Meanwhile, there have been several equipment upgrades throughout the Group 1 schools including:

- new higher-efficiency domestic water heaters
- new higher-efficiency water boilers and heating systems
- new digital HVAC control systems
- new weatherization (stripping, caulking) and new Energy Star refrigerators
- replacement of 21 roof top HVAC units with high efficiency equipment

Also, two schools will receive cogeneration systems that generates electric power on site and recaptures heat in the process that would otherwise be lost to more efficiently power the buildings' equipment.

Also, two schools will receive cogeneration systems that recapture heat that would otherwise be lost to more efficiently maintain the buildings' temperatures.

Phase 1 of ESIP is projected to save an average of \$850,000 in annual energy costs, and more than \$15 million for the duration of the 18-year term of the project.

Phase II of ESIP, which will make similar money-saving modifications to 26 school buildings, is slated to begin next summer.

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