



### **SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER**

## **“A better tomorrow, starts with us today.”**

Dear Friends of NPS,

We are living through an exciting time in the Newark Public Schools with the return of local control, teacher and administrator recruitment efforts, new ideas and concepts in school curriculum and pedagogical practices aimed to engage our students in exciting ways; igniting their curiosity and spirit while awakening their genius. The American Dream will be their living reality.

As we move the Newark Public Schools towards a bright future, our goal is to engage and give voice to the larger school community; including principals, teachers, parents, students and other key stakeholders throughout the city of Newark. Over the last several weeks, I have had the pleasure to talk with all of these groups about individual and collective opportunities and challenges we must examine to effectuate positive change. I've visited dozens of classrooms and schools while meeting with school leadership teams to determine where greatness and excellence lives and opportunities for improvement exist. Our school buildings remain pathways that map our students towards successful futures. We will continue to strategically develop individualized strategies to improve all of our schools on a quest to ensure all students in the city of Newark are afforded the quality education they deserve.

In the coming months, I will be conducting engagement tours in various wards and schools to learn more from our school community and listen to recommendations people have for improvement as we march the *Newark Public Schools Forward*. We will also continue to conduct trainings that immerse our teachers and administrators in the sharing of researched based practices that work and get the best academic results for each child.

Finally, this month, we are celebrating the accomplishments and contributions of Women in American Society while recognizing the achievement of our academic scholars and extraordinary athletes who are the pride of our district. We also say goodbye and thank you to three Board members who have served the students, families, and community with distinction and honor.

As I always say, “A better tomorrow, starts with us today.”

Sincerely,

A.Robert Gregory



*Interim Superintendent A. Robert Gregory*



**“On behalf of our Central office employees, teachers, principals, administrators, and especially students, thank you for your years of service and commitment.” - A. Robert Gregory**



**Marques-Aquil Lewis | Board Term 2009-2018**

“The past nine years serving on the board have been so amazing and I’ve accumulated a great wealth of experience. I woke up every day with one thing on my mind; doing the right thing for our children. I was able to sponsor a policy to televise our board meetings with the support of my colleagues and I was co-sponsor of the uniform policy. I’ve served under 5 superintendents, 6 board presidents, and 3 mayors. I will always treasure the moments I’ve shared with this District that raised me and made me into the person I am today. The many school openings, expansion of programs, meetings, graduations and ceremonies were all worth it because our children are succeeding better today academically. Thank you for your support in my tenure on the board as member, Vice President(twice), and President. It is not easy to say farewell, but every ride comes to an end. Let’s move Newark Public Schools Forward.”



**Dashay Carter | Board Term 2015-2018**

“Education and community service, with a strong focus on improving public school education are what I am most passionate. Education is freedom and we must invest in our students knowledge as it pays the best return on our investment. I am also most proud of my role in leading the personnel charge in the return to local control, including board training and creating the Community Engagement Committee. Finally, it was important for me to begin the project to have a “personal closet” in all schools and to be a voice in a citywide call to action for equal education across the wards.”

Chair of Community Engagement Committee, Personnel Policy Committee



**Crystal C. Fonseca | Board Term 2015-2018**

“Serving as the Chair of the Finance committee during my tenure on the Board has been a learning process but one of the issues of which I am most proud is as we moved the district forward we did so without affecting our school budgets. The SBA and her team have been phenomenal to work with during my tenure.”

I am proud of sponsoring resolutions including: the increase in minimum wage for all “district employees” to \$15/hr, Safe Zone Schools for our immigrant students, Project Prom, education and support for our bilingual families, and advocating for better reporting of IEPs for our special needs students. “You can’t lead the people if you don’t love the people. You can’t save the people, if you don’t serve the people.” - Cornell West. It’s been an honor to serve my people!



Thank you to Gina Matos, Student Representative to the Board, and all of the students for their participation in the **#Enough** National Walkout Against Gun Violence and the National March for Life events and movement.

NPS Students Rock!

Student Representative  
Gina Matos

**MEET THE BOARD**



**Marques-Aquil Lewis**  
Board Chairperson



**Tave Padilla**  
Vice Chairperson, Chair of Operations and Board Development and Governance Committees



**Reginald Bledsoe**  
Vice Chairperson of Program and Instruction Committee



**Dashay Carter**  
Chair of Community Engagement Committee  
Personnel Policy Committee



**Crystal C. Fonseca**  
Chair of the Finance Committee



**Kim Gaddy**  
Vice Chairperson of Operations Committee



**Josephine Garcia**  
Chair of the Legal Committee



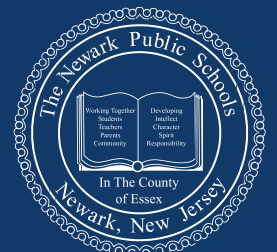
**Flohisha Johnson**  
Board Member



**Leah Owens**  
Chair of Program and Instruction Committee



**Gina Matos**  
Student Representative



**NEXT PUBLIC MEETING  
APRIL 24, 2018**



## NPS Students & Staff Participate in National Walkout to Protest Gun Violence



Photo of Belmont Runyon School

On March 14, 2018 Newark Public Schools students and staff participated in a National Walkout protesting gun violence affecting schools in America. **#enough**

View more online:  
[www.nps.k12.nj.us/news/nps-students-staff-participate-in-national-walkout-to-protest-gun-violence](http://www.nps.k12.nj.us/news/nps-students-staff-participate-in-national-walkout-to-protest-gun-violence)



Lauren Oliveira was 1 of 350,000 entries nationwide in the journalism category for "Women's Rights".



Branch Brook presented their 3rd Disney Musical's in Schools performance with the production of "The Lion King".

## Barringer Arts & Humanities Students Are Accepted Into Prestigious Programs



Barringer Arts and Humanities 11 grader Salma Kwarteng was accepted to A Summer Youth Exchange Program to Japan for this coming summer, from June 28th through July 19th, where she will study Japanese culture and live with a host family on Shikoku, the smallest of the four main Japanese Islands for most of the trip.

In addition, Salma, along with Jerry Awuah and Oluwasunmibola Oye, also of Barringer Arts and Humanities have been named as W.E.B DuBois Scholars. The three juniors will attend the scholars program at Princeton University. Congratulations Salma, Jerry and Oluwasunmibola!

## NEWS

### Marching Bands Show School Spirit at St. Patrick's Day Parade

Science Park and Barringer Arts "The Legion of Boom" were awarded first place in the Hi-Step Band Category during the St. Patrick's Day Parade, March 16th in downtown Newark. The Overall Band winner was Malcolm X Shabazz High School Band, and University High School received first place in the Marching Band Category. East Side High School and Wilson Avenue School Marching Bands were also represented during this annual event.



## SPORTS AT NPS

### West Side Graduate, NFL Standout Tahir Whitehead, Comes Home to Retire His Jersey and Say Thank You

West Side High School recently retired #4 worn by Tahir Whitehead, a graduate of West Side High School, who later went on to graduate early from Temple University before being drafted into the NFL, playing with three teams including the Detroit Lions. Whitehead also just signed a multi-million dollar contract with the Oakland Raiders. Members of the Board of Education greeted Whitehead as he returned to his alma mater. He was also welcomed by West Side students and Principal Ramkissoon, Interim Superintendent Gregory, Senator Teresa Ruiz, and other city and county officials. Over the years, Whitehead has often met with West Side students and donated football cleats, uniforms and sponsored football camps. Whitehead said, "It's okay to be proud and to be from Newark."



### Congratulations to the Lady Phoenix - University Girls Basketball team on winning the NJSIAA Group I State Championship!



## IMPORTANT DATES

4/3 Autism Awareness Month Kick Off

4/5 Family Expo

4/10 All-City Middle School Band & Choral Concert

4/12 Teen Arts Annual

4/14 Pancakes & Pajamas

4/24 NPS Board of Education Meeting

4/20-27 Newark Enrolls Match Letters Provided

For more dates and details visit: <http://www.nps.k12.nj.us/district-calendar/>



PRODUCED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Newark Public Schools, 765 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07102 • 973-733-7333 • <http://www.nps.k12.nj.us>

Photos by Rob Salagaj