



Laurie W. Newell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools

October 29, 2023

Letter Of Support From The Superintendent

Dear Paterson Public Schools Community,

Many of you are touched, directly and indirectly, by the conflict in the Middle East. No doubt you have been moved to tears and distress by the violence put upon your own who live in the region. As neighbors that share this beautiful city, I know that we can find the strength to show the empathy and concern for one another that can lead to understanding and healing. As Patersonians, we have a shared identity and shared hope for a better life.

Some of the core tenets of the work we do in the district of Paterson, is to provide a safe and supportive environment for all students. We have been working on providing emotional support to our students and families as needed. It is our responsibility to ensure that everyone, regardless of background or beliefs, has the opportunity to learn and thrive in an environment that promotes respect and acceptance.

We, at Paterson Public Schools, encourage our educators to ensure all our students are aware of the mental health, social emotional learning (SEL) or counseling services available to them throughout our district. It is our imperative to ensure that everyone within the Paterson district community knows that it is an environment where they feel safe and secure and that there are supports and resources in place across the district to assist them.

We are committed to supporting the Paterson community in ensuring the well-being of all students and families and stand ready to provide any assistance that may be required to address concerns. Thank you.

Laurie W. Newell, PhD
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