

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

July 1, 2008

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools **Timothy Connors** asked for a moment of silence in memory of three retirees and one current staff member. **June Fleary**, began as a Math teacher and went on to become an Assistant Principal and then Principal, at Church Street and Post Road Schools. After her retirement in 1984, she returned to the district as an administrator on an interim basis. **George Knies** was a custodian at the Middle School, with the district for 15 years. **Sylvia Kotch** taught at Mamaroneck Avenue School for 12 years. **Mark McKenzie** was a graduate of White Plains High School and a temporary custodial worker at Post Road School.

REORGANIZATION MEETING: Incumbent **Rosemarie Eller** and new Board Member **Randy Stein**, elected in May, took their Oaths of Office. **Donna McLaughlin** was re-elected President of the Board and **Terry McGuire** was re-named Vice President. The Board acted on various resolutions required to conduct district business in the 2008-09 school year.

PUBLIC HEARING ON CONTRACT FOR EXCELLENCE: Mr. Connors explained that a hearing is required in order for the district to participate in this State Aid program for students who are at risk of not meeting State standards. Director of Funded Programs **Dr. Larry Kilian** said the district will receive \$1.1 million for next year and outlined the proposed use of these funds, which is defined very specifically by the State. The district is now in the required period for public comment, which can be made directly to Dr. Kilian at 5 Homeside Lane. The proposal will be submitted to the State on July 22nd.

DONATIONS: The Board accepted the following donations: \$5,000 from the **Shinnyo-en Foundation** to establish the **Mayor Joseph Delfino Community Service Scholarships**; \$1,000 from the **Bronzo Group of Wachovia Securities** for their Scholarship Award; \$1,000 from 15 donors to establish the **Charlie Jenkins Scholarship Award**; and \$1,000 from over 30 donors to establish the **Pasquale Evangelista Scholarship Fund**. Mr. Connors thanked these donors for their generosity.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mr. Connors said school closing and the graduations went very smoothly, to conclude an excellent year. He looks forward to next year and to implementing the Strategic Plan, to continuing the strides made in test scores and instructional practices, and to completing the capital projects.

Reviewing the projects, Mr. Connors said work on the Mamaroneck Avenue School addition and renovations continues, within the building. The steel is expected to go up at Post Road School in August. There was some damage to the gym floor at Post Road (unrelated to construction), which will be replaced, with the cost covered by insurance. Asbestos abatement will be needed there, due to the damage and pick-up of the gym floor.

BOARD MEMBERS: **Donna McLaughlin, President; Terry McGuire, Vice President; Peter Bassano; Sheryl Brady, Rosemarie Eller; Charlie Norris, Randy Stein**

PERSONNEL: At a Special Meeting held on June 23rd, **Suzanne Lasser** was appointed Director of ELL Programming K-12, in a reconfigured position, combining the duties of Director of the Newcomer Center and Coordinator of ESOL, K-5. Ms. Lasser's office will remain at the Newcomer Center in the Eastview Building.

The Board accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement of **Geraldine Bellantoni**, Media Aide at Education House and **Kayreitha Smalls**, Adult & Continuing Education Teacher at Rochambeau School.

Ten new teachers were given probationary appointments for the Fall. Five of these will join the staff at the Highlands Campus of the Middle School: **Carolyn Chapman** will teach Reading; **Elizabeth Galvin** will teach Sixth Grade English Language Arts; **Tara Simmons-Crawford** will teach Math; **Sissi Johnson**, Science; and **Thomas Hauser**, Technology. At the High School, **Maria Csikortos** will be a School Counselor and **Libna Diaz** will teach Science. **Catherine Sheldon-Dagher** joins the New York Presbyterian Hospital Program as a Special Education Teacher. Finally, Districtwide, **Karen Jordan** will be Special Education Chairperson, and **Ryan Fischer** will be a Physical Education Teacher.

NEW STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM: The Board approved the purchase of **Infinite Campus**, a new student information system, to replace the one in place for the last 14 years and now outdated. Led by Assistant Superintendent for Business **Fred Seiler**, a committee of 13 staff members considered three companies which responded to the request for proposal. They made site visits, checked references and came to unanimous agreement on this system, for use by administrators, teachers, parents and students, which will allow information technology to improve administrative processes. The total cost of \$280,000 for the system will be reduced by approximately \$100,000 in State Aid, bringing it to about \$180,000. Infinite Campus representative **Rich Spina** made a presentation to the Board.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: July 21: Special Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld