

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

July 6, 2006 and
June 26, 2006

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools **Timothy Connors** requested a moment of silence in memory of John Jackson, retired Custodian who was with the district for 12 years.

REORGANIZATION MEETING: The three Board members re-elected in May -- **Peter Bassano**, **Terry McGuire** and **Donna McLaughlin** -- took their Oaths of Office. **Michelle Trataros** was elected President of the Board and **William Pollak** will be Vice President.

The Board acted on various resolutions required to conduct district business in the 2006-07 school year.

Mrs. Trataros thanked **Donna McLaughlin** for her leadership as President of the Board over five years. She cited Mrs. McLaughlin's contribution to two successful initiatives during her term -- the High School expansion project and the introduction of full-day kindergarten. Mr. Connors added his thanks and that of the Cabinet and said Mrs. McLaughlin's participation in contract negotiations was very valuable.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFFING: The Board authorized three-year extensions of the contracts with Assistant Superintendents **Lenora Boehlert** (Human Resources) and **Margaret Dwyer** (Curriculum and Instruction). Mr. Connors spoke about Dr. Boehlert's dedication, passion for work and tireless efforts in many different areas. Describing Dr. Dwyer, he said she drives everyone forward and we hope to see significant gains in student achievement as a result.

The Board appointed **Alexis Chestnut-Andrews** Assistant Principal at Ridgeway School and **Wilbert Dixon** was appointed House Administrator at the High School.

DONATIONS: The Board accepted the following donations: \$3,000 from the **White Plains Youth Bureau** for Project Early Read; \$100 from the **White Plains Beautification Foundation** for gardening materials at Post Road School; \$571.53 from **Washington Mutual** for White Plains High School; \$520 from current and retiring **Learning Facilitators** for books for the Media Center at the Middle School-Highlands in memory of Norman Fastenberg; Children's books from **Mr. and Mrs. Chris Cantori** for Post Road School; and \$400 from **Cisco Systems** for the Post Road School's 2007 Fourth Grade Nature's Classroom Trip (matching contributions resulting from donations of **Lynn Easterling and David Sullivan**). Mr. Connors expressed the gratitude of the district to these people for their generosity.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mr. Connors reported that Elementary Summer School has begun with 524 students enrolled, including the Enrichment courses. Middle and High School sessions begin next week. He thanked staff members who come forward to give their time to these programs during the summer.

BOARD MEMBERS: **Michelle Trataros, President; William Pollak, Vice President; Peter Bassano; Rosemarie Eller; Terry McGuire; Donna McLaughlin; Rick Tompkins**

ATHLETIC AND CO-CURRICULAR PLEDGE: The Board approved a revision of the Middle and High School student pledge governing eligibility to participate in school activities. Mrs. McLaughlin said the revision incorporates two new thoughts: that parents must work together with the schools to set high expectations for students, and that referral to a district counselor will result from incidents in the community involving drugs, alcohol or violent behavior. Board members said the pledge will be monitored carefully and reviewed, and the key component will be the regulations developed to enforce the pledge.

PERSONNEL: At the Special Meeting of June 26th, the Board accepted the resignations for the purpose of retirement of **Gary Conley**, Custodial Worker, and **Elaine DiGilio**, Teaching Assistant.

Seven new teachers were added in late June and July: **Denise Fava**, Elementary Education at the Middle School-Highlands; **Amy von Sauer**, French, and **Alan Goldstein**, Mathematics, at the Middle School-Eastview; **Deni Thomas**, School Media Specialist at the High School; **Mary Baez**, Elementary Education at Ridgeway; **Virna Jimenez**, ESOL at George Washington School; and **Christina Cimino**, Elementary Education at Mamaroneck Avenue School.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: July 31: Special Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld