

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

April 12, 2010

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Christopher P. Clouet** asked for a moment of silence in memory of **Fiori Colao**, District Groundsman and Custodian at Education House, for 28 years until 2004; **Christopher Fearon**, English and Journalism Teacher at White Plains High School for 23 years and Advisor to **The Orange**, who retired in 1985; and **Sarah Kaufman**, 5th and 6th grade teacher at several schools for 20 years, until her retirement in 1980.

RECOGNITION: Dr. Clouet announced the 2010 Green Star Award to the schools by Grassroots Environmental Education and congratulated Director of Facilities **Michael Lynch** who has taken a lead role in the district's efforts in sustainability and initiatives to become "green."

An award for first place in the Salvation Army's annual "Bell Ringers of the Year" was presented to the High School Key Club, represented by **Josh Jaffe**, President, **Anthony Cardon**, Secretary, and member **Zach Eller**, accompanied by their advisor, **Andrew Shea**.

Athletic Director **Chip Salvestrini** presented five coaches who awarded Scholar-Athlete recognition to 97 students from the Boys' Swimming & Diving Team, Boys' and Girls' Track, Ice Hockey and Girls' Basketball Teams. Mr. Salvestrini also named one athlete from the Boys' Basketball Team who maintained a 90+ average but whose team was not recognized for this honor by the State. Board President **Donna McLaughlin** congratulated the students, their parents and coaches.

Although early in the process, Dr. Clouet announced some of the schools which have offered acceptance to our High School seniors, including Barnard, Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Morgan State, NYU, Tufts, U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, Vassar, Virginia State, Wesleyan, Williams, many SUNY schools, and Westchester Community College. Many more are expected.

BUDGET: Acting on State requirements, the Board adopted the Proposed Budget for 2010-2011 and will hold the required final Public Hearing on May 10th. It will then be offered to the voters for approval on May 18th. The budget stands at \$183,533,896, a reduction of 1.21% from last year, however, due to the overall revenue decrease of almost \$6 million, the tax rate will increase 3.78%. Dr. Clouet said this has been a very cooperative but exhaustive process. Mrs. McLaughlin added that it has been difficult for everyone and Board members are not happy with the result but believe that the budget is in the best interests of the district and community at this time, considering the economic climate. She thanked everyone -- administration, staff, community -- for their hard work.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Clouet asked Assistant Superintendent **Margaret Dwyer** and Eastview Principal **Joseph Cloherty** to speak about a new initiative for incoming sixth graders. Named **AVID** (Advancement Via Individual Determination), the program will identify approximately 25 students who have mid-level grades and will provide opportunities for advancement. It is expected that rigor will be raised for all students in the process.

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

PERSONNEL: Resignations for the purpose of retirement were approved for:

Administrators **Margaret Dwyer**, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, and **Ivan Toper**, High School Principal.

Teaching Staff: **Carolyn Blatt, Margot Brown-Ronin, Robert Costabile, Kathleen Curcio-Pollio, Ellen Epstein, Marilyn Gomez, Christine Herzog, Dorothy Holloway, Jonathan Hotchkiss, Harriette Ketover, Mary Marquis, James McGuire, William Miro, Dennis O'Brien, Claire Oram, Judith Phillips, Edward Potoma, Patricia Quintano, Randi Sack, Linda Shulman, Frederick J. Singleton, Joan Traber and Janet Warmbir.**

Teaching Assistants: **Anne Marie Coles, Laura Groven, Karen Larmon, Suzanne Peduzzi, and Lorraine Pleska.**

Civil Service Staff: **Brenda Hannon, Thomas Harris, Roberto Monteiro, Sharon Reidy, Charles Rupeikos and George W. Turner.**

Board Members thanked the staff members for all they have done for the schools and for their impact on students. It was noted that in their resignation letters all the retirees thank the district and the Board for the opportunity to serve. The Board doesn't often have an opportunity to thank *them* and tell them how fortunate we are to have such outstanding employees and how much they will be missed.

In addition, the Board accepted the resignation of **Dr. Heidi McCarthy**, Director of Special Programs & Services, effective September 1st.

DONATIONS: Dr. Clouet thanked the following donors for their generosity to the district: The family of the late **Margaret Pape** for reading and teaching materials for Post Road School; **Shamus Finney** for two New York State flags for Post Road School; **DonorsChoose** for a camera for **Debra Benge's** classroom at Church Street School; **Joe Gold** for photography equipment for the High School Art Department; the **Foundation for Life, Inc.** for \$250 for the Loucks Games, and the **Barnum Financial Group** for 100 bicycles and helmets to be given to eight-year-old children at the opening ceremonies of the Loucks Games; and **The Foundation for Public Education in White Plains, Inc.** for an additional \$1,000 for the High School's China Exchange trip. This was presented by Foundation member **Nick Wolff**, who said the group's total donation this year exceeded \$21,000.

TAX CERTIORARIS: Claims for refunds amounting to almost \$1.6 million were approved by the Board. These were submitted by five commercial property owners.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: May 10: Regular Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.
Public Hearing on the Budget
May 19: Special Meeting, High School Media Center, 7:30 P.M.
Canvass of the Election
Teacher Tenure Appointments

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