

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

April 14, 2008

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools **Timothy Connors** asked for a moment of silence in memory of four retirees. **J. Kevin Dougherty** was an Instructor in the High School Media Center and was with the district for 22 years. **Helen Josefek** taught at Ridgeway, Church Street and Rochambeau Schools for a total of 31 years. **John Rossman** was a Math Teacher at Eastview Junior High for 27 years. **Robert Smith** taught Physical Education at the Middle School and coached various teams during 30 years with the district.

STUDENT RECOGNITION: Mr. Connors congratulated students, their teachers and parents and read a list of some of the prestigious colleges which have offered them acceptance. These include: Brandeis, Bucknell, Colgate, Cornell, Johns Hopkins, Middlebury, Mount Holyoke, NYU, Rensselaer Polytech, Smith, SUNY/Albany and Binghamton, Syracuse, Wellesley, Wesleyan and Yale, among many others.

Eastview Principal **Joseph Cloherty** introduced **Jordan Klein**, an eighth grader who won the schoolwide National Geographic Bee and went on to the State competition. French Teacher **Lisa Panaro** presented senior **Mia Oliveri**, the recipient of an AFS Award for Excellence to study abroad this summer. She will travel to Egypt and is one of 10 students nationwide who received an AFS scholarship, out of 1,400 nominees.

Board members praised the students and staff for the Middle School production of "Seussical," and the High School performances of "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying." Board member **Charlie Norris** displayed a T-shirt from the Eastview "Fashion for a Cause" project to save drinking water and commended efforts relating to this global issue.

2008-09 BUDGET: The Board approved an amended proposed budget, resulting from new State Aid figures, which helped to lower the tax rate to 5.98%, the lowest in ten years. The budget now stands at \$184,420,859, an increase of 5.95% over last year. Because the State has earmarked a portion of the new funding for specific purposes, some new expenditures will be required, although most of this money will be used to lower the tax rate. Mr. Connors thanked State Legislators **Suzi Oppenheimer, Adam Bradley** and **Amy Paulin** for their efforts.

There was some discussion about funding for improvement of the baseball fields -- about \$90,000 in the budget -- which will be used mainly to address safety concerns. Representatives of the **Friends of White Plains Baseball** attended and said the group has raised about \$10,000 to be used to enhance the baseball program.

RETIREMENTS: The Board accepted resignations for the purpose of retirement from **Christina Morzello**, Program Supervisor, and **Abife Lockhart**, Teacher, both in the Adult & Continuing Education Program at Rochambeau School.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS: **JoAnn Doherty** was appointed Assistant Principal at the High School, selected from 70 applicants. Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources **Dr. Lenora Boehlert** spoke of Ms. Doherty's history of success in White Plains and High School Principal **Ivan Toper** said she has the strength, skills and experience for this position and always has the best interests of the students at heart. Ms. Doherty thanked everyone for their confidence.

Teresa Niss was appointed Director of the Elementary Summer School.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mr. Connors presented a report from Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services **Dr. Anne Lillis** on residency investigations. During the last two years, 28 students were identified as non-residents.

Mr. Connors reported that work on the High School field is almost completed and urged everyone to attend the **Loucks Track Meet** on May 8-10, when the new field will be celebrated along with the athletes.

Discussing misuse of fields, Mr. Connors noted that the district is looking into the possibility of developing a policy regarding dogs. Given the community's investment in the fields, this is a concern that will be addressed.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH: Preparing for Mr. Connors's retirement in June of 2009, the Board appointed **Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates** to conduct a search for a new superintendent. Board President **Donna McLaughlin** said that this is the same firm that brought Mr. Connors to the district and the Board was very pleased with their services.

DONATIONS: Mr. Connors thanked the following donors for their generous gifts: the **Class of 1943** for \$1,688.36 for three scholarships; **White Plains Post 191, Jewish War Veterans of America** for \$500 for a scholarship; **Westchester County Film Festival** for \$500 for the High School Art Department for the Film Studies Program, in recognition of sophomore Michael Gugger's award of third place in the competition; **Lorraine Trovato-Cantori** for \$200 for books at Post Road School and plants for the garden at the Highlands Middle School; **Matthew and Micah Orifici of EduTek Limited** for computer equipment; **Alfredo Flores** for a DVD of "Mad Hot Ballroom Dancing" for Mamaroneck Avenue School; and **White Plains Fastpitch** for \$12,000 toward the cost of the Varsity Softball Team's spring training trip to Florida.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

May 5:	Regular Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.
May 12:	Special Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M. Public Hearing on the Budget
May 21:	Special Meeting, High School Media Center, 7:30 P.M. Canvass of the Election Appointments to Tenure

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