

# THE BOARD REPORTS

## Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

February 11, 2008

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools **Timothy Connors** asked for a moment of silence in memory of **Bernice Banker**, an elementary Music Teacher who had been with the district for 32 years prior to her retirement.

RECOGNITION OF INTEL SEMIFINALIST: **Timothy Selg**, teacher of the High School's Science Research Program, proudly presented **Adam Lanman**, White Plains High School's 14<sup>th</sup> Semifinalist in the prestigious National Intel Science Talent Search. One of only 300 students chosen nationwide, Adam made a presentation on his topic entitled: "A Physical Model for the Grouping Behavior of Adolescent Pedestrians." The program is in its tenth anniversary year and Mr. Selg expressed appreciation to everyone who has provided support -- the Board, administration, Principal **Ivan Topper**, Science Coordinator **Margaret Doty**, mentors of the students and particularly the parents.

RETIREMENTS: The Board accepted resignations for the purpose of retirement from 12 staff members and Mr. Connors and Board members thanked them for their services and wished them well. Retirees are: **Joan Kass**, Coordinator of LOTE and ESOL, 6-12; **Allyson Alfano**, Teaching Assistant at George Washington School; **Mary Jane Hoag**, Teaching Assistant at New York Hospital; **Joseph Thigpen**, Custodian, High School; **William DeFeo**, English Teacher High School; **Catherine Gruder**, Reading Teacher, Middle School-Highlands; **Karen Jenkins**, Reading Teacher, Middle School-Eastview; **Lidia Lyman**, School Counselor, High School; **Elaine Norelli**, Mathematics Teacher, High School; **Thomas O'Connell**, Special Education Teacher, High School; **Susan Rosenzweig**, Speech Teacher, Middle School-Eastview & High School; and **Marian Steinberg**, Special Education Teacher, New York Presbyterian Hospital Program.

Mrs. Kass was thanked for her many initiatives, the special programs she has led, and for establishing a strong foundation for the district in the area of languages.

STRATEGIC PLANNING: Mr. Connors recommended implementation of the first priorities of Action Teams in each of the five areas derived from Strategies developed by the Core Planning Committee, as follows:

- Insuring that every employee understands the vision, goals and implications of the mission and strategic objectives. This will be coordinated by Mr. Connors with **Teresa Niss**.
- Implementing a systematic process to insure that all programs and projects reflect the mission and are cost effective. Assistant Superintendent **Fred Seiler** will direct this activity.
- Achieving the goal that at least 90% of all students are reading on grade level by the end of second grade. This will be led by Assistant Superintendent **Margaret Dwyer** and Board President **Donna McLaughlin**, who will focus on the community commitment to the importance of reading.
- Developing proficiency in the essential characteristics of effective leadership in all district administrators. Assistant Superintendent **Lenora Boehlert** and others will be responsible for this.
- Instituting a process for a coordinated and integrated approach to disseminate information about the district. Mr. Connors plans to convene a steering committee to provide direction.

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

PERSONNEL: **Eva Cieloszyk** was given a probationary appointment as a Latin Teacher at the Highlands Middle School and the High School.

Two Teaching Assistants were awarded tenure: **Michele Bellantoni** at Post Road School, and **Henry Burford** at the Middle School-Highlands.

DONATIONS: The Board accepted the following donations: \$100 from **Laurie Bass and David Fine** for High School Orchestra instruments and for the High School Choir trip to the Penn State University Choral Festival; \$500 from **Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hollahan** for the High School Choir Penn State trip; \$2,000 from an anonymous donor for the High School Choir Penn State trip; Sample fabric books from **Joyce Duffy** for use by the High School Art Department; and \$600 from the **Hitchcock Presbyterian Church** for the Manhattanville/Centro Hispano Hispanic Outreach Tutorial Program. Mr. Connors thanked these donors for their generosity.

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE: Contracts totaling about \$4.4 million were awarded for the renovation and construction work at Mamaroneck Avenue School. This is the third set of bids for capital projects that has come in under budget -- this one by 20%. Bids for the new Post Road School will follow in a few weeks and the tracks should be completed once the warmer weather arrives.

Board Member **Bill Pollak** commented that because the Wicks Law is still in effect, separate contractors are required, at a greater cost to the district.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

March 3:	Special Meeting, Education House 7:30 P.M.
March 5:	Second Meeting with Annual Budget Committee, Education House, 7:30 P.M.
March 10:	Regular Meeting, High School, 7:30 P.M. Scholar-Athlete Recognition

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld