

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

June 9, 2008

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools **Timothy Connors** asked for a moment of silence in memory of **Fred Rothfuss** who taught in the district for 30 years, at Post Road, Rochambeau and Highlands Schools, until his retirement in 1988.

RECOGNITION: President **Donna McLaughlin** thanked retiring Board Member **Bill Pollak** for his six years of service and spoke of his open mind, legal acumen, and good sense of humor. Other Board members added their thanks and Mrs. McLaughlin presented an engraved school bell to Mr. Pollak as a token of appreciation. CSEA President **Adele Herzenberg**, Teachers Association President **Kerry Broderick**, and PTA Council President **Wendy Cicchiello** all recognized Mr. Pollak for his contribution to the district's leadership.

Eleven 25-year and 24 retiring staff members were honored for their dedication and service to the schools. Mr. Connors and Mrs. McLaughlin presented certificates to:

Twenty-five year staff members: **Mark Benevento, James Cassavecca, Christine Herzog, Steven Levine, Lori Mollo, Bari Moore, Judith Phillips, Edward Potoma, Christine Propper, Joseph Spedalieri and Edward (Skip) Weinstock.**

Retirees: **Allyson Alfano, Natalie Arone, Sybil Daniel, William DeFeo, Susan Fiorella, Catherine Gruder, Mary Jane Hoag, Karen Jenkins, Joan Kass, Sue Krongold, Abife Lockhart, Lydia Lyman, Maura McNamara, Christina Morzello, Elaine Norelli, Thomas O'Connell, Chris Pacewicz, Michael Passow, Elia Presto, Susan Rosenzweig, Roland Skinner, Marian Steinberg, Joseph Thigpen and Cecil Thompson.**

DONATIONS: The Board accepted a \$250,000 donation from the **Louis R. Cappelli Foundation, Inc.**, as part of a pledge of \$1 million to the Loucks Field project at the High School. The Foundation has completed half the pledge to date.

Teresa Niss and Ann Carney contributed \$100 each for an Art Scholarship at the High School.

CONTRACT FOR EXCELLENCE: Under this State Aid program the district will receive an increase of \$1.1 million, for a total of \$2.2 million, targeted for students who are at risk of not meeting State standards. **Dr. Larry Kilian**, Coordinator of Funded Programs, described the criteria and a draft proposal for use of funds. The State prescribes the use of these funds and requires a 30-day comment period (which began June 9) and a public hearing, which will take place on July 1st, 7:45 P.M., at Education House.

TENURE: Recommending Post Road School Principal **Laura Havis** for tenure, Mr. Connors said Ms. Havis has a quiet strength and cares deeply about the children of our community. A graduate of the White Plains Schools, she has been a dedicated staff member who creates a positive learning environment for all students. Ms. Havis said she is honored and humbled to receive tenure.

Also receiving tenure were nine Teaching Assistants: **Geri Alvarez, Jimmy Arboleda, Tracey Bostic, Adrienne Dinkins, Devonnia Jones, Maureen Keegan, Marilyn Moreno, Susan Morrone and Kelli-Ann Schmier.**

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

