

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

March 10, 2008

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools **Timothy Connors** asked for a moment of silence in memory of three retirees: **Malcolm Hudson**, Custodial Worker at George Washington School for over 10 years, **Lillian Abbott**, Foreign Language Teacher at the High School for 16 years, and **Robert Smith**, Physical Education Teacher and Coach for 30 years, until his retirement two years ago.

STUDENT RECOGNITION: Principal Ivan Toper congratulated 79 students on five Winter Varsity Teams, their coaches and parents for their achievement of Scholar-Athlete status. The New York State Public High School Athletic Association makes these awards, based upon a team average of 90 or above from a specified number of athletes. Athletic Director Nick Panaro thanked the Board for celebrating this milestone each season and then introduced coaches, who presented the athletes. They included: 19 members of the Men's Swimming & Diving Team, coached by **Patty Gilmartin**, 12 athletes from Men's Track, **Lamont McCormick**, Coach; 28 Women's Track Team members, **Carlos Agudelo**, Coach; 8 Ice Hockey players, coached by **Howie Rubenstein**; and 12 Wrestlers, **Tony Iasiello**, Coach. In addition, seven Cheerleaders (not recognized as a sport by the State) had averages over 90, as did six members of the two teams which did not qualify.

Board members congratulated the Ice Hockey Team for being undefeated in League play and the Girls' Basketball Team, which again won the Section I title. Men's Track Team members had outstanding performances in last weekend's State meet.

Bonnie Ackerman, of the National Scholastic Chess Foundation, reported on last weekend's County Championship held at Ridgeway School, attended by 180 players from over 50 schools. Ridgeway's K-2 players placed third in the tournament for their level, Mamaroneck Avenue School's 4th-5th grade team placed third in their category; the school's 2nd-3rd grade team placed fifth, and Church Street School's 2nd-3rd grade team placed fourth.

Board members congratulated the High School Choir and Symphonic Orchestra for a wonderful concert last week, and the teachers and students in the High School's "Jiggy Showcase."

RETIREMENTS: The Board accepted resignations for the purpose of retirement from **Susan Fiorella**, Office Manager at Post Road School; **Assunta Krongold**, Secretary at the High School; **Cecil Thompson**, Custodial Worker at Church Street School; and **Maura McNamara**, Elementary Education Teacher at Church Street School.

DONATIONS: Mr. Connors thanked the following donors for their generous gifts: **Sunny & Dana Comfort** for \$2,000 for the High School Athletic Department and Swim Team; the **Class of 1955 Reunion Group** for \$1,800 for a podium and microphone for the Public Speaking room at White Plains High School; and **Rick Tompkins** for a drum set for Ridgeway School

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: In an update on the 2008-09 Budget, Mr. Connors said two meetings with the Annual Budget Committee have taken place and City Assessor **Lloyd Tasch** spoke at the last one. Mr. Connors is confident that the increase will be brought down to an acceptable level and noted that the fringe benefit increase is the lowest it has been in many years, at 4.5%. The Board will adopt the proposed budget on March 31st.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: March 17: Special Meeting, Education House 7:30 P.M.
March 31:: Special Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.
Board Adoption of Proposed Budget
April 14: Regular Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld