

# THE BOARD REPORTS

## Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

May 5, 2008

CHINA TRIP: High School Social Studies Teacher **Susan Altman** reported on the foreign exchange trip in April to our sister school in Suzhou, China. She, along with fellow teachers **Eleanor Gaffney** and **Richard Dillon**, led 12 students in a very exciting experience for everyone. Ms. Altman described classes prepared specifically for our students and spoke about the special relationships which developed. She presented a gift from Suzhou High School, their school crest, to Superintendent **Timothy Connors**.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mr. Connors reminded everyone of the Loucks Meet this week on the new track at the High School. It will be the largest meet in 41 years, with about 1,500 students participating. At Saturday's ceremony Mr. Connors will express the district's thanks to the community for supporting the field project.

PERSONNEL: The Board accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement from **Sybil Daniel**, Adult and Continuing Education Teacher at Rochambeau School.

**Timothy Veeder** received a probationary appointment as Music Teacher at the Highlands campus of the Middle School.

**Gary West** was appointed Assistant Director of the Elementary Summer School.

USE OF FACILITIES POLICY: The Board Finance Committee has been reviewing this policy and wanted to hear the views of the full Board, particularly in relation to the new fields. Some increases in current fees are being recommended and there may be some new charges, considering the costs of lighting, overtime, security and other issues. We must attend to the business side of the policy in order to avoid bearing the burden of the costs.

Mr. Connors said the district is making every effort to move forward in accommodating groups which are anxious to use the new fields. He and Assistant Superintendent for Business **Fred Seiler** are also working with the City on the renewal of the Joint Facilities Agreement.

DONATIONS: Mr. Connors thanked the following donors for their generous gifts: **Mr. and Mrs. Edward Morrissey** for a trombone for the Music Program; **Helene Alalouf** for two multimedia curriculum units on the Holocaust for the High School Media Center; the **White Plains Bridge of Friendship and Shinnyo-En Foundations** for \$10,000 for support of district cultural performances; the **White Plains High School Hockey Parents Association** for \$3,400 for the Ice Hockey Team; and **Felix Reyes** for 10 computers and a Nordic Track treadmill for use at the Community School.

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

TAX CERTIORARIS: Refunds totaling \$1.3 million were approved by the Board in reductions in assessments of various commercial properties, as awarded by the court. This brings the total to more than \$7 million in refunds during the current year.

PUBLIC COMMENT: **Alan Himmelstein**, parent and President of White Plains Youth Soccer, requested that the district allow Youth Soccer and other organizations to use the new fields as soon as possible.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: 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

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld