

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

April 11, 2011

RECOGNITION: Superintendent of Schools **Christopher Clouet** introduced **Timothy Selg**, Teacher of the Science Research Program and four seniors in the class, **Jesse Cole**, **Robert D'Annibale**, **Julianne Clampet** and **Evin Feldman**, who was one of the 300 National Semifinalists in the Intel Science talent Search this year. In the 15 years since the program began, 16 White Plains High School students have achieved this honor. After a presentation on his project, Dr. Clouet presented Evin with a Certificate of Achievement.

Director of Athletics **Chip Salvestrini** introduced coaches from six winter sports teams which achieved Scholar-Athlete status of a 90 or better team average. One hundred-five students were recognized, from Girls' Basketball, Ice Hockey, Boys' and Girls' Indoor Track, Boys' Swimming and Wrestling. Dr. Clouet congratulated the students and their parents on this achievement.

Dr. Clouet read an early list of colleges which have offered acceptance to White Plains High School seniors and congratulated them and their parents. The schools include **Brandeis**, **Brown**, **Colgate**, **Cornell**, **University of Delaware**, **Duke**, **Hampton**, **Howard**, **Johns Hopkins**, **University of Michigan**, **Morgan State**, **NYU**, **Northwestern**, **Oberlin**, **University of Pennsylvania**, **RPI**, **Spelman**, **Syracuse**, **Tufts** and **Wesleyan**, among many others.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2011-2012: In the final Board discussion on next year's Budget, Assistant Superintendent for Business **Fred Seiler** reviewed the latest changes, based on the increase in State Aid announced last week. Dr. Clouet has recommended reinstating three of the PreKindergarten classes that were to be eliminated by turning the entire program over to the Family Services of Westchester. Next year will be a transition year instead, with half of the classes in each program. Portions of the added funds will also be used to restore some enrichment staffing and for the tax certiorari reserve. The budget now stands at \$185,536,466, a 1.09% increase from last year, with a tax levy increase of 1.52% and a tax rate increase of 2.67%.

Board Member **Donna McLaughlin** expressed disappointment in the restoration of the three Pre-Kindergarten classes and feels the money can be better used. Although a strong advocate for prekindergarten, Ms. McLaughlin feels an obligation toward students who need extra support. She said she cannot support the budget as it now stands.

NEW ADMINISTRATORS: Four new administrators were appointed to probationary positions. **Jonathan Alfred Brown** will become Principal at the Highlands Middle School and comes to the district from Cortlandt Manor, where he was Assistant Principal of the Middle School. The new Assistant Principal at the Highlands will be **Ernest Spatafore**, who is moving up from his position as Interim Assistant Principal and Science Teacher in that school. **Jacqueline Polanco** was named Assistant Principal at Ridgeway School, with experience in a similar position in East Ramapo. **John Orcutt**, from New Paltz schools, will join the district as House Administrator at the High School.

BOARD MEMBERS: **Rosemarie Eller**, President; **Charlie Norris**, Vice President; **Peter Bassano**, **Sheryl Brady**, **James Hricay**, **Donna McLaughlin**, **Randy Stein**

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2011-2012: After discussion, the Board approved next year's school calendar which has four snow days built in, rather than the usual three. The major change is in the February holiday, where there will be a four-day weekend, instead of a longer recess.

DONATIONS: Dr. Clouet thanked the following donors for their generosity to the district: **Rosemarie Eller**, for books for the High School Guidance Department; **Fred Pfisterer and Maureen Fitzgerald** for a trombone for the High School Music Department; **Lorraine Trovato-Cantori** for books for Post Road School and art materials for the Community School; **The Foundation for Public Education in White Plains, Inc.** for \$1,000 for the Zork Poetry Slam Workshop at Mamaroneck Avenue School and \$500 for a visit by author Roberto Quesada to the High School; **Jon Levy** for two sets of golf clubs for the High School Athletic Department; **Mr. & Mrs. Mark Stagg** for golf equipment for the High School Athletic Department; and **Buffalo Wild Wings** for lunch for High School SAIL students.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Clouet spoke about the "My Favorite Teacher Award" which will be given to Mamaroneck Avenue School's **Traci Jackson** at Barnes & Noble on Friday.

Dr. Clouet asked Director of Facilities and Operations **Floyd Young** for a report on goals for his area. Mr. Young spoke about the facilities services policy, staffing issues and technological initiatives in processing the use of facilities and in the areas of supplies and maintenance.

OTHER BUSINESS: Tax certiorari refunds to three commercial property owners, totaling \$484,586 were approved by the Board. This brings the total payout for the year to date to \$6.6 million.

The Board also approved a Shared Services Agreement with the City of White Plains for vehicle maintenance and repair.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

April 27:	Special Meeting, Education House, 6:45 P.M.
May 9:	Regular Meeting, High School Media Center, 7:30 P.M. (preceded by Data Fair in Atrium) Public Hearing/Presentation on 2011-12 Budget and Public Hearing on Safety Plan and Code of Conduct
May 18:	Special Meeting, High School Media Center, 7:30 P.M. Canvass of the Budget Vote and Election, May 17 th Teacher Tenure Appointments

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