

# THE BOARD REPORTS

## Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

July 9, 2007

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools **Timothy Connors** asked for a moment of silence in memory of Linda Johnson, an elementary teacher at Battle Hill and George Washington Schools for 38 years, until her retirement in 2001.

REORGANIZATION MEETING: New Board Members, **Sheryl Brady** and **Charlie Norris**, Elected in May, took their Oaths of Office. **Donna McLaughlin** was elected President of the Board and **Terry McGuire** will be Vice President.

The Board acted on various resolutions required to conduct district business in the 2007-08 school year.

DONATIONS: Mr. Connors expressed gratitude to the family of Linda Johnson for the establishment of the Linda Johnson Memorial Fund for the George Washington School Library. The White Plains Library Foundation was also thanked for a \$5,000 contribution for Project Early Read.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mr. Connors said the elementary summer school had a good start last week, with over 500 students, under the capable direction of **Teresa Niss** and her staff. Summer sessions begin tomorrow at the Middle and High Schools, which will bring the total to over 1,200 students in all. New Directors of those programs are **Michael Sullivan** at the Eastview Campus of the Middle School and **Lesley Tompkins** at the High School.

Mr. Connors announced a groundbreaking ceremony at Loucks Field on Thursday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, at Noon, to celebrate the beginning of work there and at Parker Stadium. Work has also begun on the High School roof, all part of the Capital Project approved last fall.

Acknowledging the recent Supreme Court decision which rejected the use of race as a basis for school assignment, Mr. Connors said the district's Choice Program, begun in 1989, has served us well. He proposed that the Board consider forming a committee in the fall, to look at possible implications for the district, resulting from the Court decision.

CAPITAL PROJECT: The Board awarded two contracts relating to the 2006 Capital Improvement Project approved by the voters last fall. The first was for electrical work on the athletic fields, amounting to \$900,000, and the second, for required testing and special inspections, has a budget of \$200,000.

Architects **Russ Davidson** and **Eric Kaeyer** provided an update on the Mamaroneck Avenue project which is nearing the end of the design phase and is well under budget. Work will begin by the end of 2007 or early next year. The Post Road School project will begin in the spring.

Discussing the fields, the Board reached consensus on lettering of "WP" in the center of both fields. A decision can be made later on whether to add "White Plains" outside of the field surface. Mr. Davidson noted that the field work is also under budget.

**BOARD MEMBERS:** **Michelle Trataros, President; William Pollak, Vice President; Peter Bassano; Rosemarie Eller; Terry McGuire; Donna McLaughlin**

PERSONNEL: The Board accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement of **Carol Ubriaco**, English Teacher at White Plains High School.

Two new teachers received Probationary appointments: **Jason Lee** will teach Mathematics at the High School and **Lisa Ninivaggio** will teach Special Education at the Middle School-Highlands.

Following Executive Session discussion, the Board added to the agenda and approved salary increases for Cabinet Members for 2007-08.

COMMUNICATIONS: Natalie Arone, President of the Civil Service Association, spoke about two issues: She urged settlement of the union's contract at a "fair and equitable cost of living increase," and also urged the Board not to consider increased use of technology as cause to reduce the clerical staff. She said this staff deals with students and parents, not goods and services, as in corporate America.

CSEA CONTRACT: After discussion in Executive Session, the Board voted to approve the proposal for two-year settlement, with a 3% salary increase, effective one month after the start of each employee's work year. The actual cost to the district will be 2.75%.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: August 6: Regular Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.  
August 27: Special Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld