

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

March 12, 2007

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools **Timothy Connors** asked for a moment of silence in memory of staff members who passed away recently. **Susan Deul** was a teacher at Mamaroneck School and previously at Eastview School, and had been with the district for 15 years. **Melissa Presta** was an Office Assistant for three years, in Special Education and in the Nurse Coordinator's Office. In addition, five retirees passed away in recent weeks: High School Chemistry Teacher **Carol Cohen**, with the district for 25 years; Custodial Worker **Ben Radcliff**, at several schools, 18 years; High School Custodial Worker **Kinzell Spencer**, 16 years; High School Guidance Counselor **Joan Storm**, 29 years; and Post Road School Office Manager **June Taylor**, 24 years).

SCHOLAR-ATHLETES: Ninety-six students from seven teams were recognized as Scholar-Athletes. Members of the Ice Hockey, Wrestling, Women's and Men's Track, Men's Swimming and Diving, and Women's Basketball were introduced by their coaches for contributing to team averages of 90 or better, as prescribed by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association. In addition, local awards were given to members of the Cheerleading Squad, which is not recognized by the State as a sport, but will be recognized by Section 1 next year. Athletic Director **Nick Panaro** also recognized one student from the Men's Basketball Team whose average was over 90.

Mr. Panaro added that every team qualified for Sectional play this season and **Sue Adams**, Coach of the Women's Basketball Team, thanked everyone for their support in the team's efforts in reaching the Class AA State Regional Finals this year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: In an update on Strategic Planning, Mr. Connors said the Core Team has met and has provided some objectives which are now posted on the district's website. The Measurement Team has begun to meet and Action Teams will come together later this week. He added that community members are still welcome to join committees and should contact him if interested. He will look into a possible adjustment in the time commitment required.

PERSONNEL: Resignations for the purpose of retirement were accepted from **Laury Yates**, Special Education Teacher at Ridgeway School, and **Angela Karaffa**, Districtwide Speech Teacher. **Patricia Dam** was appointed as an Adult Basic Education Teacher at Rochambeau School.

DONATIONS: The Board accepted the following donations: \$250,000 as the first installment of of the \$1 million grant from the **Cappelli Foundation** for the White Plains High School Field Project; \$1,000 from **Dana Comfort** for the High School Athletic Department; a violin from **Deborah Fortin** for Church Street School; and Seeds and plants from **Seeds of Change** and **Claire's Nursery** for the High School South House Garden Project. Board members thanked the donors for their generosity.

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

MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH: Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum **Dr. Margaret Dwyer** explained a change for the upcoming year. Because progress has been excellent since eliminating the sixth grade Basic Math level, that consolidation will now be extended to the seventh grade. The district will continue to support this process through differentiated instruction which has been piloted in the sixth grade this year. Teachers also report a very positive cultural change. The Board's Curriculum Committee has reviewed this change and concurs and Mr. Connors said the change follows a trend across the country.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: March 19: Special Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.
Public Hearing on the 2007-08 Budget
March 26: Special Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.
Board Adoption of Budget
April 16: Regular Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld