

# THE BOARD REPORTS

## Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

May 9, 2011

PUBLIC HEARING/PRESENTATION ON PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2011-2012: Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Christopher Clouet** said this has been a demanding task in this difficult time for public education. The result is a 1.09% increase in the budget, which totals \$185,536,466. He said it is responsive to the needs of both students and taxpayers. Assistant Superintendent for Business **Fred Seiler** reviewed highlights of the budget, including expenditures, revenues, and the contingency budget. He said that although there has been discussion by legislators about a 2% tax cap, this budget has remained well within those parameters. The impact on the tax rate is a 2.67% increase, in contrast with last year's 3.78%. There were a few questions from the public on federal aid.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN AND CODE OF CONDUCT: In accordance with annual requirements under Project SAVE Legislation, the Districtwide School Safety Plan and Code of Conduct were reviewed and have undergone slight revisions. The Plan provides a framework for the District's safety initiative, focusing on prevention, preparedness and crisis response. There are no significant changes from the plan currently in place.

NEW ADMINISTRATORS: Three new administrators were appointed to probationary positions. **Carolyn Quintana** will become Coordinator of English Language Arts, K-12, Districtwide, moving from her position as House Administrator at the High School. Replacing Ms. Quintana at the High School will be **Raegan Figueroa**, who has experience as an Assistant Principal and Dean of Students. **Laura Mungin** will be the new Principal at George Washington Elementary School and comes to the district from East Ramapo, where she was an Assistant Principal.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Clouet first thanked everyone who participated in the very Impressive Data Fair earlier this evening.

He then introduced the first of two reports, on the subject of Professional Learning Communities, which require a collaborative culture and a collective effort to improve student achievement. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction **Jessica O'Donovan** provided background for this innovative staff development effort. She showed a video which demonstrated examples of PLCs in practice, all teacher-directed, with clearly established protocols and roles. Year One produced an excellent start and produced recommendations for the coming year.

The second report was by **Ron Velez**, Director of Management Information Systems, who provided an update on his area. His office oversees the entire technology infrastructure and information systems used by staff, students and parents. Board members were pleased with improvements in the data-driven decision-making process, with data now available 48 hours after testing.

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

DONATIONS: Dr. Clouet thanked two donors for their generosity to the district: **TD Bank** for \$50 gift cards for SAIL students at White Plains High School, and **Dana Comfort** for \$1,000 for the Swimming Program and \$1,000 for the Athletic Program at the High School

OTHER BUSINESS: Tax certiorari refunds to two commercial property owners, totaling \$1.2 million were approved by the Board. This brings the total payout for the year to date to over \$7 million.

The Board also approved the appointment of **Capital Markets Advisors, LLC**, to provide financial advisory services for bonding and investments.

The Board approved a two-year extension of the contract with **White Plains Bus Company** at a significant discount in cost. The district has had a very good experience with the company, it has excellent safety and reliability records, and the contract does include gas.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Civil Service Employees Association President **Adele Herzenberg** and White Plains Teachers Association President **Kerry Broderick** both endorsed the 2011-12 Budget and spoke about the importance of community support for it. Ms. Broderick also noted the visit to White Plains today from **Randi Weingarten**, President of the American Federation of Teachers, and **Dick Ianuzzi**, New York State United Teachers President. They are touring districts to spotlight educators and others whose work has impacted positively on the students and communities they serve. White Plains is honored to be recognized for this.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: May 31: Special Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.  
June 13: Regular Meeting, High School Media Center, 8:00 P.M.  
Recognition of Retirees and 25-Year Staff Members  
Teacher Tenure Appointments

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