

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

September 11, 2006

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools **Timothy Connors** requested a moment of silence in remembrance of 9/11/01 and shared a paragraph which was read in the schools today, honoring those who lost their lives in the tragedy five years ago.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mr. Connors reported on an excellent school opening last week and two successful conference days for staff. He thanked all the staff members who helped prepare the schools for students.

Coordinator of Music and Art **Teresa Niss** reported that for the first time in many years, four students have been selected for All State performances. High School Junior **Alex Cantatore** will play tuba in the Symphonic Band and Senior **Kirk Jackson** will sing tenor with the All-State Choir. Alternates are **Helen Hess**, senior, for Orchestra, and **Rebecca Riss**, junior, for Band.

Dr. Margaret Dwyer, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, reported on the Research for Better Teaching initiative, in which all instructional leaders are participating. This will provide a shared vocabulary and move the district forward toward a common vision of best practices, leading to improved instruction for students.

In the annual report on the use of Federal funds for No Child Left Behind activities, Mr. Connors said the largest piece of this is over \$1 million in Title I money to provide direct instructional support in literacy. Information will be shared with PTAs and can also be obtained from **Dr. Larry Kilian**.

HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME: Principal **Ivan Topor** announced the selection of four alumni to be inducted on November 14th. Honorees are: **Eileen Johnson**, '44, pioneer in diversity and minority hiring; **Dr. Lawrence Schneiderman**, '49, internationally recognized expert and teacher in Medical Ethics; **Dr. William Bauman**, '68, honored physician, teacher and researcher of veterans with spinal cord injuries; and **Dr. Martha Himmelfarb**, '70, internationally renowned author, scholar and expert in ancient Judaism and Christianity.

Mr. Topor invited everyone to the November ceremony, which has become one of the highlights of the year at the High School.

OTHER BUSINESS: The Board approved a contract with **Triton Construction Company** as construction manager for the proposed Capital Improvement Project, and another with **Syntax Communications**, to continue their marketing communication services for this year.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Parent **Sarina Russell** expressed disappointment with the Athletic and Co-Curricular Eligibility Pledge. She feels a stricter standard is needed.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: September 25: Special Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.
October 16: Regular Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld

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