

# THE BOARD REPORTS

## Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

December 13, 2010

MOMENT OF SILENCE: A moment of silence was observed in memory of several former staff members. **Ray Rush** held various positions in the Business Office, including Business Manager, between 1970 and 1981. **Frances Stukes** was a Teacher Aide at the Highlands School for 14 years until her retirement in 1999. **Thelma Washington** taught at Mamaroneck Avenue School for 30 years before retiring in 1991.

RECOGNITION FOR ATHLETICS: Athletic Director **Chip Salvestrini** introduced coaches from eight Fall Athletic Teams which had a total of 119 members who qualified for Scholar-Athlete status. Students represented Boys' and Girls' Cross Country, Boys' and Girls' Soccer, Field Hockey, Girls' Volleyball, Girls' Tennis and Girls' Swimming and Diving. Their coaches are **Fred Singleton, Carlos Agudelo, Marcel Galligani, Carlos Mejia, Joan Behrends, Alvera Pollard, Brian Golden** and **Patty Gilmartin**. The coaches thanked the parents for their support and the Board congratulated the students.

Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Christopher Clouet** announced that Athletic Trainer **Mike Mirabella** was awarded the prestigious Joseph Abraham Award, given annually to the top high school athletic trainer in New York State.

**White Plains High School's Cheerleaders** will be featured on "The Cheering Life," on Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7:30 P.M. on Channel 14, which highlights cheerleading squads throughout the tri-state region.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: As the 2011-12 budget process begins, Dr. Clouet asked Assistant Superintendent for Business **Fred Seiler** to provide some background. Mr. Seiler reviewed the budget calendar, which begins this week with a meeting of Administrators and includes four public forum sessions. The public will vote on the budget on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Seiler described significant issues affecting the budget, which include a possible 2% cap on the property tax levy and proposed cuts in State Aid by the new Governor on the revenue side, and increases in salaries and benefits on the expenditure side. This will be a very challenging year for budget development.

Dr. Clouet also noted that the Highlands Middle School will be visited by Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Junot Diaz** this week, as a result of student initiatives relating to his work.

PERSONNEL: Tenure was granted to **Shari Kaplan**, Speech Teacher at George Washington School. Her credentials were presented by Principal **Terri Klemm**, Assistant Principal **Brendan McCarthy**, and Co-Director of Special Education **JoAnn Doherty**.

Tenure was also granted to **Maria Colon**, Teaching Assistant at Mamaroneck Avenue School.

The Board approved the resignation for the purpose of retirement of **George Weeks**, Teaching Assistant at New York Hospital.

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

DONATIONS: Superintendent of Schools **Christopher Clouet** thanked a number of donors for their gifts which were accepted by the Board. Presenting a \$600 check for the High School Band, **Mario Cermele**, President of the Antonio Meucci Lodge, and **Frank Tarone**, Chairman of the Columbus Day Committee, expressed their appreciation to the school district for the use of the High School facilities for the Italian Festival.

Other donations accepted were: \$750 from **William and Georgia Pollak** for the High School Band; textbooks on Bacteriophages for the High School Science Research Program from **Kateri Scott-MacDonald**; \$318 from the **High School Alumni Association** to cover the transportation cost for Mamaroneck Avenue School students to attend a program on Government at the Westchester County Board of Legislators; 15 pairs of Nike Sneakers from **SLM Hoop, Inc.** for the High School Boys' Basketball Program; \$250 grant from the **George Candreva Foundation** for an Environmental Mini Grant for Aminah Kapadia at Post Road School; and two donations from the **Foundation for Public Education in White Plains, Inc.** -- \$2,000 for the Young Playwrights Program at Eastview Middle School, and \$1,500 for the *Highlands News* project at Highlands Middle School.

Board President **Rosemarie Eller** thanked these donors for their generosity.

OTHER BUSINESS: Tax certiorari refunds for five properties, totaling over \$350,000, were approved by the Board.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: January 10: Regular Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld