

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

February 7, 2011

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Christopher Clouet** asked for a moment of silence in memory of **Evelyn Karr**, a Special Education Teacher at the High School for 14 years until her retirement in 1983.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Clouet reported that the weather has had a great impact on the district and the calendar will be adjusted so that the days to be taken from the April vacation week will be used in reverse order from that listed. To date, two snow days will be recovered by opening school on April 21st and 20th.

Dr. Clouet mentioned a wonderful event last Sunday, when senior citizens attended a luncheon and performance of the High School's musical, "Into the Woods." Over 100 attended, including many people who returned from last year, and High School students interacted with them.

2011-12 BUDGET: Dr. Clouet began by noting that the district is faced with an unprecedented, painful process and has already cut staffing by more than 10%. He said, "We are now facing the reality of having to cut programs to which the community has been accustomed." Those being looked at include Prekindergarten, the Newcomer Center, Adult Education, certain afterschool programs, summer schools and others.

Assistant Superintendent for Business **Fred Seiler** presented part of the Instructional Budget, showing a cut of about \$2.5 million from the current year. The balance will be presented on March 14th, the night of a Public Hearing on the Budget. Mr. Seiler reviewed key dates and noted the Community Forums which are scheduled in March.

DUAL LANGUAGE REPORT: Reporting on this three-year-old program, Director of ELL Programming **Suzanne Lasser** introduced **Dr. Terri Klemm**, George Washington School Principal, who described the program to date. She said it has grown from two Kindergarten classes at GW to a K-3 program there, along with K-1 at Post Road School. **Brendan McCarthy**, GW Assistant Principal, and **Carmen Soto**, Post Road Assistant Principal, spoke about outcomes, and **Teresa Niss**, Principal at Post Road, described plans for the future. Answering Board questions, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction **Jessica O'Donovan** said research shows that a minimum of four years is required to achieve grade level proficiency.

NEW COURSES: Two new High School courses were approved by the Board: "College Algebra with Trigonometry," to replace Advanced Algebra, and to be offered as a 4-credit class through Westchester Community College; and "Bigger, Faster, Stronger," a pilot Physical Education elective for juniors and seniors.

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

