

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

January 10, 2011

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Christopher Clouet** asked for a moment of silence in memory of those who lost their lives in the recent tragedy in Arizona.

EARLY ACCEPTANCES TO COLLEGES: Dr. Clouet announced some of the colleges to which White Plains High School seniors have been accepted to date. They include Wesleyan, Brown, University of Pennsylvania, Duke, Hampton College, NYU, University of Michigan, and others. Board President **Rosemarie Eller** congratulated the students and their families for this wonderful achievement.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Clouet reported on a joyous Three Kings Day at Centro Hispano where he was pleased to be able to present gifts to the children.

In an update on the 2011-12 Budget Process, Dr. Clouet said meetings will begin this month. (NOTE: As of this writing, and following a snow day, the first Community Budget Forum has been rescheduled for **Wednesday, January 19th, at 7:30 P.M., in the White Plains High School B-1 Room.**

TAX CAP PROPOSAL: The Board voted to endorse a resolution presented by the Westchester-Putnam School Boards Association and will petition legislators to consider relief from legislative and unfunded mandates in any proposal for a tax cap. Board Member **Peter Bassano** noted that this does not represent opposition to the tax cap, but is a request that those in power consider how best to address the ramifications of a tax cap. Board Member **Donna McLaughlin** called attention to a newspaper article this morning on the fact that the required contribution to the State Employees Retirement System would put the district over a 2% tax cap, without any further increase in expenditures.

PERSONNEL: The Board granted tenure to **Tara Simmons**, Mathematics Teacher at the Highlands Middle School. Presenting her credentials, Math Coordinator **Lee Weber** said that students respond immediately to Ms. Simmons and it is "impossible not to learn in her classroom."

The Board accepted the resignation of the purpose of retirement of **Linda Reggina**, Teaching Assistant at Post Road School.

DONATIONS: Dr. Clouet thanked **The Foundation for Public Education in White Plains** for two donations to Middle School programs: \$1,250 for the Living History Re-enactor program at Highlands, and \$1,000 for the Middle School Newscast at Eastview.

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

OTHER BUSINESS: The Board accepted a Five-Year Building Condition Survey, as required by the State Education Department. The report was completed by **The Facilities Management Group**, a State-approved firm, and represented at the meeting by **Ivan Carrasquillo**. He and Director of Facilities **Floyd Young** provided an overview of the survey and its key findings. The district is required to file a report with the State this week.

Answering a question from the Board, Assistant Superintendent for Business **Fred Seiler** said that the district will apply for reimbursement for expenses incurred but he anticipates receiving only about 11 cents on the dollar. This is another unfunded State mandate.

A special Education Consortium Agreement was approved by the Board, under which the district will participate with six other districts in sharing ideas and services to reduce costs. Dr. Clouet commented that this is an example of how we are exploring creative opportunities with neighboring districts.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: January 19: Budget Forum, High School B-1 Room, 7:30 P.M.
 January 27: Meeting with Common Council, City Hall, 7 P.M.
 February 7: Regular Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.

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