

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

January 11, 2010

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent **Christopher Clouet** asked for a moment of silence in memory of **Dr. Samuel Kasoff**, a mentor in the Science Research Program at the High School. Dr. Kasoff was a retired neurosurgeon who founded the Department of Neurosurgery at New York Presbyterian Hospital. Many students in the research program benefited from his guidance.

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES: Colleges which have offered early acceptance to White Plains High school seniors include: **Yale, Columbia, Brown, U.S. Naval Academy, Barnard, NYU, RPI, Northwestern** and **Oberlin**, among others. Dr. Clouet congratulated these hard-working students on their achievement, as well as their parents and teachers.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Clouet spoke about an agreement with Manhattanville College whereby White Plains High School graduating seniors with a GPA of at least 3.5 may attend the college at a 50% reduction in tuition. He thanked Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources **Dr. Lenora Boehlert** and George Washington school Principal **Dr. Terri Klemm** for being instrumental in bringing about this agreement due to their involvement with Manhattanville.

Speaking about the biometrical finger scan which has received recent publicity, Dr. Clouet said this is an upgrade of the district's cafeteria SNAP system. He assured everyone that it is not the same as fingerprinting and has no connection to any other school records. There is no obligation for students to participate. It is a scanning system designed to improve efficiency in the cafeteria.

Dr. Clouet introduced **Dr. Margaret Dwyer**, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, who spoke about the expansion of the Middle School Foreign Language program. She introduced **Lisa Panaro**, Interim Coordinator of the program, who provided information on the size and breadth of the program and the many opportunities it provides. Almost 1,000 students at Highlands now participate in Foreign Language instruction. Ms. Panaro presented **Hui Altman**, teacher of the new Mandarin Chinese class, and several of her students, who demonstrated conversation and sang in that language.

Susan Altman, High School Social Studies Teacher made a presentation on the Foreign Exchange Trip to Suzhou, China, planned for this spring. Fifteen students are expected to participate in the 9-day trip and Mrs. Altman looks forward to continuing the relationship with the Chinese school. We will welcome their students here again in the fall.

DONATIONS: Dr. Clouet thanked Teaching Assistant **Gerardina Witt** for her gift of a clarinet to the district's Music Program.

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

PERSONNEL: The Board accepted the resignation of Ridgeway Principal **Evette E. Avila** and appointed **Francis Lahey** as Interim Principal there. The Board also accepted resignations for the purpose of retirement from **Michael Kirkpatrick**, Security Assistant at the High School, and **Marcia Weinstein**, Elementary Education Teacher at Ridgeway School.

Post Road Teaching Assistants **Karen Watson** and **Patricia McKoy** were both appointed to tenure.

PUBLIC NOTICE: The Clerk read a required statement regarding the Federal Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), concerning the district use of software to protect against access by adults and minors to inappropriate matter, as specified by law. The district has a policy, "Acceptable Use of Computer Networks," which addresses these issues and is available in all buildings and on the district's website. (www.whiteplainspublicschools.org)

UPCOMING MEETINGS: January 13: Budget Forum, High School B-1 Room, 7:30 P.M.
 January 20: Budget Meeting, Slater Center, 7:30 P.M.
 January 25: Special Board Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld