

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

June 14, 2010

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Christopher P. Clouet** asked for a moment of silence in memory of three former staff members. **Paul Glenn** was an Art Teacher at the Highlands who retired in 1992 after 27 years here. **Marion Zani** worked in the High School for 25 years and retired in 1985 as Assistant to the Principal. **Joseph Zappala** retired in 1990 after 32 years with the district as an elementary teacher at Post Road School.

STUDENT RECOGNITION: High School Senior **Stephanie Figueroa** was awarded the Cristin Ann Bambino Scholarship from the New York State Insurance Reciprocal, the district's insurance carrier. NYSIR Representative **Bob Bambino** presented a \$3,000 check for the award, named in memory of his daughter, to honor Special Education students, Mr. Bambino said Ms. Figueroa is a determined young woman, who works hard and perseveres.

Dr. Clouet commended the High School Computer Club for their work in renovating equipment for use by community organizations. He noted that **Elie Rosen**, a graduate, was instrumental in initiating this project.

STAFF HONORS: Board President **Donna McLaughlin** and Dr. Clouet thanked 64 retirees and 29 twenty-five year staff members for their commitment and dedication to the district. One substitute teacher with 15 years' experience was also recognized. Mrs. McLaughlin singled out several retirees for special mention – **Assistant Superintendent Dr. Margaret Dwyer**, **Principals Diana Knight, Ivan Toper, Laura Havis and Gail Epstein**, and **Director of Facilities Michael Lynch** – for their important contributions to the district over a period of many years.

NEW ADMINISTRATORS: **Diana Knight**, current Principal at the Highlands campus of the Middle School, who is retiring from that position, has been named Interim Principal at White Plains High School for one year, beginning July 1st. In recommending the appointment, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources **Dr. Lenora Boehlert** said that Ms. Knight is well known and respected by the staff, students, and the community. Ms. Knight had served as a House Director at the High School from 1983 to 1991.

Jessica O'Donovan was appointed Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, to replace Dr. Dwyer. Ms. O'Donovan comes to the district from a similar position in Port Chester and has a strong background in professional development and data-driven decision-making. Dr. Clouet said the district knew that filling Dr. Dwyer's shoes would be difficult but he believes Ms. O'Donovan is a very talented educator and he is pleased that she is joining the district. Ms. O'Donovan said she has received a very warm welcome here and is most enthusiastic about joining the team.

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

TENURE GRANTED: Four administrators were granted tenure by the Board: **Heidi McCarthy**, Director of Special Programs & Services; **Lesley Tompkins**, Director of Guidance & Counseling Services; **Jesimae Ossorio**, Elementary Assistant Principal at Church Street School; and **Darrell Stinchcomb**, Elementary Assistant Principal at George Washington School.

Tenure was also granted to 10 Teaching Assistants: **Cindy Carosella**, **Lesley Castro**, **Kathleen Egan**, **Kristen Gentile**, **Sharon Grahame**, **Alicia Gualtieri**, **Margaret Indelicato**, **Tiara Johnson**, **Ann Kelly** and **Antonio Martinez**.

PERSONNEL: Resignations for the purpose of retirement were accepted from **Barbara Barnes**, Switch-Board Operator at Education House; **Elizabeth Martines**, Principal Clerk at the High School; and **Jacquelyn Roberts**, Elementary Education Teacher at the Middle School-Highlands.

A total of 12.5 classified positions and 41.2 certified positions were abolished due to changes in staffing and/or budgetary needs of the district. As a result, staff members currently serving in those positions were terminated from employment. Those with least seniority have been placed on the Preferred Eligible List for seven years, for possible recall.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Clouet spoke about the Sustainability Expo last Saturday, which the district co-hosted with the Council of Neighborhood Associations. Students participated and **Representative Nita Lowey** attended. It was held at Post Road School to emphasize the district's commitment to "going green."

Dr. Dwyer reported on the ACE initiative, a dual enrollment program in partnership with Westchester Community College. One hundred-thirty-eight students are enrolled this year and 96% of them feel it has been a positive experience. Seventy-four percent of the students are earning grades which will entitle them to college credit. The program will be expanded next year and six courses will be offered. Dr. Dwyer thanked the district's subject Coordinators for their leadership and also the **Foundation for Public Education in White Plains**, which will offer partial funding for students who cannot afford the fee.

DONATIONS: Dr. Clouet thanked teacher **Vasendha Hrazanek** for a violin for Church Street School and **Dr. Margaret Dwyer** for an iMac for the Technology Office.

OTHER BUSINESS: The Board approved a municipal lease for the Energy Performance Contract for a 15-year term with Chase Equipment Leasing at an interest rate of 3.85%. The district is awaiting State Education Department approval of this project. Board members were very pleased with the excellent interest rate obtained.

Board members approved a revised list of community youth sports groups relating to charges for use of facilities. The district is reviewing its policies in an effort to generate income wherever possible.

Tax certiorari refunds for four commercial properties, totaling over \$835,000, were approved by the Board.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: June 21: Special Meeting, Education House, 7 P.M.
June 28: Special Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.
July 6: Reorganization & Regular Meetings, Education House, 7:30 P.M.

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