

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

June 8, 2009

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools **Timothy Connors** asked for a moment of silence in memory of **Sally Fagin** and **Isabel Levy**, two retired staff members who taught Adult Education at Rochambeau School. Mr. Connors also remembered Mamaroneck Avenue School third grader **Erick Illescas** who passed away last week and was described by his teacher as “a kind, energetic boy with a perpetual smile.”

RECOGNITION: Board President **Donna McLaughlin** thanked retiring Board Member **Terry McGuire** for his six years of service. She and Board members spoke of his contributions to the Board, his gentle manner, analytical mind and wonderful sense of humor. He was presented with an engraved school bell and a certificate of appreciation. Each of the unions praised Mr. McGuire’s service and donations were made to the High School Media Center in his honor.

Celebrating Mr. Connors’s retirement, Mrs. McLaughlin spoke of his accomplishments during his seven years in the district, arriving here at a difficult time and developing wonderful relationships with the children and staff of the district and the entire community. She mentioned his professionalism, his warm personality and his daily visits to the schools. Board members added their thanks to Mr. Connors for his outstanding leadership and his passion for children.

Frank Williams, on behalf of the Mayor and as Director of the Youth Bureau, spoke of the footprints Mr. Connors has made here and his efforts to help children become all that they can be.

Mrs. McLaughlin then thanked fifteen 25-year staff members for their dedication and commitment, along with seven substitute teachers with 15 years of service in the district. Certificates were presented to 25-year staff members: **Anthony Anzovino, Daniel Assumma, Laura Dam, Sharon DeSalvo, Michael Downey, John Dwyer, Mitchell Fried, Robin Grusko, Karen Larmon, Katrin Laube, Deborah Massaro, Connie Nichols, Ted O’Donnell, Claire Oram and Esther Rabasco.**

Substitute teachers honored were **James Barrego, Janet Diamond, Patricia Ginter, Regina Mignogna, Edith Rennwanz, Pat Silletti, and Margery Tuckman.**

Forty-eight staff members are retiring from the district this year and both Mr. Connors and Mrs. McLaughlin spoke about their contributions to the district and the effect they have had on the lives of children, no matter what their position. Certificates were given to: **Cynthia Adams, Rosemarie Agosto, Mike Angiuli, Gayle Ayer, Geraldine Bellantoni, Dona Burke, Betty Calabro, Loretta Cannito, Ann Carney, Lois Chanofsky, Carmen Class, Jody Cole, Carol Cullen, Maria DePalo, Margo Devenney, Tom Eaton, JoAnn Emerson, Philip Feinberg, Carol Finiani, Daniel Friday, Rachel Giordano, Sandra Harrison, Yvonne Harrison, Ann Isberg, Jean Istwany, Irmgard Jones, Betty Keith, Larry Kilian, Jodi Krauss, Mona Levy, Faye Mallery, Karen Mishkin, Joyce Mitchell, Angela Mitura, Madhy Oya, Ron Palladino, June Palma, Nick Panaro, Vinny Parrino, Thomas Pearson, Marcia Schupper, Rudena Skinner, Nina Stewart, Rannie Tatum, Carol Wagner, Mary Walsh, Roz Weiner and MaryLu Wichman.**

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

CONTRACT SETTLED: The Board approved a two-year contract between the Civil Service Employees Association and the White Plains City School District, effective July 1st. The contract calls for 2% raises each year and increases in the contributions for health insurance payments.

DONATIONS: The Board accepted two donations with sincere appreciation: \$500 from **Cisco c/o Global Impact**, for buses for the Post Road 2010 Nature's Classroom Trip; and plants and fish tanks from **Lorraine Trovato-Cantori** for both Middle School campuses.

PERSONNEL: **Teresa Niss** received a probationary appointment as Elementary Assistant Principal at Post Road School, effective August 1st. Mr. Connors commented on the impact Ms. Niss has had in her short time in an interim appointment there and noted that staff members and parents are very pleased with this decision.

High School Assistant Principal **Leroy Dixon** was awarded tenure and Principal **Ivan Toper** said Mr. Dixon is an outstanding administrator who is intelligent, hardworking and knowledgeable. He is concerned about the welfare of all students and is well liked by parents, students and staff.

Recommending **Will Dixon**, House Administrator at the High School, for tenure, Mr. Toper spoke about Mr. Dixon's contributions to improve the school and his expertise in mentoring, counseling and working with students.

Monalisa Nunez was given a probationary appointment as Elementary Education Teacher at George Washington School.

The Board approved appointments to tenure for the following Teaching Assistants: **Stella Boyar, Dorothy Craparo, John Fitzsimmons, David Galarza, Patti Lodes Felicia Lotito, Daniel Moore, Eileen Seymour, Anita Stangarone** and **Robert Tuck**.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mr. Connors spoke of the important work of the Rotary Club in connection with the schools and in recent scholarship awards. He also mentioned the Lower Hudson Superintendents' Scholastic Achievement Dinner, initiated by former White Plains Superintendent **Carroll Johnson**. This was attended by High School Valedictorian **Jacob Paul** and Salutatorian **Victor Brady**.

Mr. Connors called upon Assistant Superintendent for Business **Fred Seiler** who spoke about the updated library system for textbook inventory and the upgraded WIN SNAP food service program.

OTHER BUSINESS: The Board approved Municipal Cooperation Agreements with the City of White Plains pertaining to Gardella Park/Church Street, and collection of taxes. Another action was the refund of almost \$600,000 in tax certioraris for four properties.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Several Church Street School parents expressed concern about class sizes for next year, with the proposed elimination of a grade level section in the school. Mr. Connors said he will look into it and meet with the parents to resolve the issue.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

June 16:	Special Meeting, High School, 7:30 P.M. Executive Session
June 22:	Special Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.
July 6	Reorganization & Regular Meetings, Education House, 7:30 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld