

# THE BOARD REPORTS

## Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

March 6, 2006

IN MEMORIAM: Superintendent of Schools **Timothy P. Connors** asked for a moment of silence in memory of **Kathleen Fay**, an elementary school teacher in the district for 28 years, until her retirement in 1992.

SCHOLAR-ATHLETES: The Board honored 86 students whose teams had averages of 90 or better. They represent Men's Swimming & Diving, Men's Track, Women's Track, Ice Hockey and Wrestling.

High School Principal **Ivan Toper** congratulated the Women's Basketball Team for its second straight Section 1 Championship. Athletic Director **Nick Panaro** recognized State Track Champions **Whitney Ford** and **Donovan Haigler**, and **Jason McLaughlin**, who swam in the State Championships and was named All-America. Mr. Panaro also congratulated the Cheerleading squad, which earned two first place finishes in competitions and had six students with 90+ averages. Five other students from teams which did not qualify also had 90+ averages.

PROPOSED EXCHANGE TRIP TO CHINA: High School Social Studies Teacher **Susan Altman** provided background on a proposal for a foreign exchange trip to China. With assistance from Foreign Language Coordinator **Joan Kass**, and Social Studies Coordinator **Lois Gordon**, she has been working on a program with Suzhou High School, in a suburb of Shanghai. The goal is to foster cultural understanding and global citizenship, not only through the trip, but via videoconferencing. Ten students would travel to China in April, 2007, and Suzhou students would come to White Plains that fall. The high school would also offer classes in the language for a larger group of students. When details are finalized, the Board will be asked to approve the trip.

PERSONNEL: **JoAnn Doherty**, Director of the New York Presbyterian Hospital Program, was awarded tenure. Assistant Superintendent **Joseph Casbarro** described Ms. Doherty as "a very special administrator and leader who loves her students and respects parents, staff and colleagues." He added that no challenge is too great for her to tackle and she is committed to creating a stable environment for students who really need that.

The Board accepted resignations for the purpose of retirement of **Nancy Chiariello**, Secretary in the Curriculum & Instruction Office, and **Margaret Giamburro**, Food Service Helper at the High School.

STUDENT PLEDGE: Dr. Casbarro reviewed a revised Athletic and Co-Curricular Pledge, required for student participation in activities, which the Board and administrators have been working on for many months. Copies are available from Dr. Casbarro's office and feedback from students, parents, coaches and administrators should be directed to him or to Board members. The Board plans to adopt a revised pledge in time for next fall.

**BOARD MEMBERS:** **Donna McLaughlin, President; Michelle Trataros, Vice President; Peter Bassano; Rosemarie Eller; Terry McGuire; William M. Pollak; Rick Tompkins**

**DONATIONS:** The Board accepted a number of contributions for Project Early Read, an intervention program offered to 150 students on Saturday mornings to help develop reading skills. The **Ginsburg Community Fund of Ginsburg Development, LLC** made a \$5,000 grant to the program, and \$5,000 was also received from the **White Plains Housing Authority**. **Pi Iota Omega Sorority** gave \$400 and **Barbara & Robert Holland**, \$200. Each of the following contributed \$100: **Larry & Deirdre Cohen, John Coleman, Nellie & Bernard Gaughran, Suzanne Lasser, Rebecca Peters** and **Barbara Schwarz**. Contributions totaling an additional \$380 were received from other donors.

**Lucy Roman** donated three iPod shuffles, as prizes to students for participating in a technology survey; and **Julie Parelli** provided fabric for the Family & Consumer Science Program at the Highlands Middle School.

**BUDGET:** Mr. Connors and Assistant Superintendent for Business **Terry Schruers** presented new information on revenues received from the City. They shared options for applying projected revenue from PILOTS and will present this to the Annual Budget Committee this week for reaction. Mr. Connors thanked the Mayor and the three City departments which have been very helpful.

**NEW MATH PROGRAM:** Math Coordinator **Lee Weber** presented the new sixth grade Math Program and invited parents to a program on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Highlands School to learn more about it. After realigning curriculum maps, a rigorous course of study has been prepared, along with professional development in the new curriculum and in Differentiated Instruction. Sixth grade will have Advanced and Regular Math and criteria for entrance into the Advanced program will be clarified and expanded. All students will be challenged and supported. The Board Curriculum Committee has been discussing the project and supports this new direction to raise standards. The approach has been found to be remarkably successful, with clear results.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

March 15:	Special Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M. Final Meeting with Annual Budget Committee
March 20:	Public Hearing on the Budget and Capital Projects, Education House, 7:30 P.M.
March 27:	Special Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M. Board vote on Budget and Capital Projects
March 30:	Board meets with PTA Council, Education House, 7:30 P.M.
April 3:	Regular Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.
April 5:	Meeting at Slater Center with Board, 7:30 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld