

# THE BOARD REPORTS

## Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

May 10, 2010

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Christopher P. Clouet** asked for a moment of silence in memory of **Barney Decimes**, a Custodial Worker at Post Road School who retired in 1994 after 20 years, and **Earl Rainey**, Attendance Officer for the schools for 18 years.

PUBLIC HEARING/PRESENTATION ON THE 2010-2011 BUDGET: Dr. Clouet said this budget of \$183,533,896 responds to educational needs and, at the same time, to the concerns of taxpayers. Some of the decisions were very difficult for the Board and for him, but were necessary due to economic conditions.

**Fred Seiler**, Assistant Superintendent for Business, provided an overview of the budget which is proposed for a public vote on May 18<sup>th</sup>. It is a 1.21% reduction from last year's budget – the first time this has occurred in district history. The tax increase is 3.78%. Mr. Seiler reviewed expenditures, revenues, major budget reductions, and staffing changes, which include the reduction of 83.1 positions.

Public comment concerned the need for the services of the Student Assistance Counselor, income from the new athletic fields and the technology budget, among other topics.

Board Vice President **Rosemarie Eller** thanked the public for its comments tonight and throughout the many public meetings during the process.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Clouet congratulated Food Service Director **Ed Marra** on the latest district effort to become environmentally "green." In a pilot program, styrofoam trays will no longer be used at the Highlands Middle School.

Dr. Clouet attended a Westchester-Putnam School Boards Association meeting recently and heard Congresswoman **Nita Lowey** speak on the No Child Left Behind Act and other issues.

The district's re-registration process is proceeding well and there has been a good rate of response to date.

DONATIONS: Dr. Clouet thanked **Maryann Martin** at **CBS Consumer Products** for the French books and games for the LOTE Department, and **Mr. and Mrs. Richard Keith**, their family and friends, for \$1,000, who established the Great Potential Scholarship at White Plains High School.

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

