

# THE BOARD REPORTS

## Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

November 8, 2010

MOMENT OF SILENCE: A moment of silence was observed in memory of several former staff members. **Franklin Annis**, Principal of Mamaroneck Avenue School, was with the district for 22 years before retiring in 1977. **Judith Brindley**, an Art Teacher at the High School for 13 years, retired earlier this year. **Sandra Burno-Deberry** was a Business Education Teacher at the Middle and High schools for 35 years until retiring in 2007. **Thomas Sweeney** was an Elementary Teacher at the Highlands School for 21 years, retiring in 1977.

STUDENT RECOGNITION: Superintendent of Schools **Chris Clouet** announced National Merit Scholarship Awards for 2010. **Hannah Fine** is a Semifinalist; Commended Students are **Gabriel Freed, Alex Johnsson, Laura Kain, Thomas Liu, Katherine Murphy, Cormac Nataro, Sarah Nirenberg** and **Luke Taylor**. In addition, **Angie Ocampo** and **Cristhian Rubio** were named National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholars.

Dr. Clouet presented a certificate of recognition to **Joshua Colas**, Middle School student who recently distinguished himself in competition in the World Youth Chess Championship in Greece. He defeated national champions from Bosnia, South Africa, Czech Republic, Poland and Italy, among others. Josh thanked the Board and said he enjoyed the experience tremendously.

Dr. Clouet read a message from alumnus **Tim Pennucci**, '05, in which he updated his Guidance Counselor and Science Research Teacher on his recent accomplishments, including a BA in Astro-Physics from Columbia, current work on a PhD in Astronomy at the University of Virginia, and the publication of an article in *Nature Magazine* this month.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Clouet reported on a realtors' meeting and tour of Post Road School last week, which he and **Michele Schoenfeld** organized. It was very well received and the district will follow up with further tours and communication, as requested.

Dr. Clouet spoke about his participation in the Task Force formed by the New York State Council of School Superintendents, relating to evaluations of principals and teachers, in accordance with new State regulations.

In an update on the Race to the Top funding, Dr. Clouet said that a district committee has submitted the required paperwork to the State. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum **Jessica O'Donovan** said that, actually, the district will receive only \$271,705 over four years, with tight strings on how we may spend that. Seventy percent of it will go to BOCES for network teams; 25% will go toward a new principal/teacher evaluation system; and the remaining 5% (for use as we wish), will go toward a feasibility study for an International Baccalaureate program. ELA Coordinator **Beth Doyle** explained the network team concept. Many questions remain to be answered before this project moves forward.

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

DONATIONS: Superintendent of Schools **Christopher Clouet** thanked a number of donors for their gifts which were accepted by the Board. They include: a garden shed (\$349) from the **Central Westchester Audubon Society** for the Church Street School courtyard; a violin from **Jeremy and Christotapia**, for Church Street School; computer hardware and software from two donors -- **Deborah Fortin** and **Jon Levy** -- for the High School's Technology and Computer Organization (TACO); and a violin and a cello from **Jeffrey Karson** for the Highlands Middle School.

TENURE: The Board granted tenure to six Teaching Assistants: **Juan Bedoya**, High School; **Geraldine Buckley**, George Washington School; **Matthew Courtien**, Church Street School; **Barbara Ignaszewski**, Mamaroneck Avenue School; **Robert Javier**, High School; and **Serena Stokes**, Mamaroneck Avenue School.

PUBLIC COMMENT: **Dr. Mary Lane Cobb**, made a statement on behalf of **Mrs. Petra Thombs**, suggesting that the schools consider presenting more information to students on Kwanzaa, a celebration of family and community, rooted in African cultures. She mentioned an event at the Slater Center on December 29<sup>th</sup>, in connection with the holiday.

OTHER BUSINESS: Tax certiorari refunds for three properties, totaling over \$750,000, were approved by the Board.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:    November 29:        Special Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.  
   December 13:        Regular Meeting, High School, 7:30 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld