

# THE BOARD REPORTS

## Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

October 12, 2010

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** A moment of silence was observed in memory of **Liberta Massaro**, a food service worker in the district for 13 years until retiring in 1981.

**RECOGNITION:** Board Member **Peter Bassano** was presented with an Honorary Developmental Achievement Citation, for participation in the New York State School Boards Association's leadership development opportunities.

In honor of School Board Recognition Week later this month, leadership of the **Administrators and Supervisors Association**, the **Teachers Association**, and the **Civil Service Employees Association** thanked the Board members for their efforts as "stewards of our community" and for their partnership in the important work of educating the children of White Plains. A gift certificate for library books was presented in their honor.

**PROGRAM REPORTS:** Board Member **Charlie Norris** introduced a presentation on an initiative he learned about when speaking to a class at the High School. **Coach Skip Stevens** and two members of the Football Team, **Michael Trapp** and **Brian Warager**, described **Athletes for Excellence**, a program organized by the Coach, to take advantage of early release days to provide peer tutoring and additional academic support services for student athletes. It also provides physical performance opportunities as well as community service.

Teacher **Susan Altman** reported on the recent visit by 15 students in the High School's **Chinese Exchange Program**, and thanked the many people who made the experience so successful for both the visitors and hosts. The students, from Suzhou, China, spent a week here learning about Western culture and also visited the district's Chinese language class at the Highlands Middle School. Board member **Sheryl Brady** thanked Mrs. Altman and teacher **Anita Nordal**, who supervise this program, as well as all the teachers who escort our students on exchange trips.

Also on the subject of **LOTE** (Languages Other Than English), Coordinator **Lisa Panaro** described the three trips abroad which were approved by the Board. Scheduled for the spring break, students will travel to Italy, Spain and Costa Rica. The district's internal auditors, Tobin & Co., reported on their recommendations for consistent and systematic policies in this area, in connection with responsibilities, student billing and payment.

In a review of the **Technology Program**, Coordinator of Instructional Technology **Lucy Roman** made a presentation on the subject of embedding technology into instruction. (The presentation is also available on the district's website.) She described the review process -- steps to identify the role of technology, gathering data and making recommendations; the action plan; and current practices. This will be discussed further by the Board's Curriculum Committee.

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

