

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

September 13, 2010

MOMENT OF SILENCE: A moment of silence was observed in memory of three former staff members: **Dr. Arthur Antin** was Superintendent of Schools for 12 years, from 1969 until his retirement in 1981. He had joined the district in 1953 as an administrative intern. Both Dr. Antin and his wife Ruth made great contributions to the community before retiring to Florida.

Elaine Stern was a Senior-Clerk Typist at Education House for 12 years, retiring in 1985; and **Priscilla Tatum** was a Food Service Worker for four years, until 2009.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: **Dr. Christopher Clouet** said school opening went very well and the energy accompanying a new year is evident in all the buildings. He mentioned the upcoming "Dads: Take Your Child to School Day" on September 21st. Part of a state and national effort to involve fathers in their children's education, the event here is co-sponsored by the **White Plains Youth Bureau** and the **African American Men of Westchester**.

Dr. Clouet provided a final report on the district's re-registration pilot for 6th grade students, an effort to insure that only district residents attend our schools. The process resulted in a 99.3% completion and only three families were found to be non-residents. An ongoing investigative process continues throughout the year for the same purpose.

In a presentation on a preliminary action plan responding to the new passing level cutoff for scores for New York State assessments, Dr. Clouet and Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction **Jessica O'Donovan**, described the impact of the shift in the proficiency level and outlined some proposed steps planned to meet the new goals. All students will be held to higher expectations and the administration will develop a full plan with a timeline. Parent meetings will be held on this subject, in the buildings and districtwide. It was pointed out that White Plains students' scores actually rose from the previous year however, due to the State's new proficiency level, the passing rate figures declined. Districts across the State experienced a similar situation.

Board members commended the administration for its new direction, rather than a "band-aid" approach.

HALL OF FAME: Interim Principal **Diana Knight** announced the selection of four alumni to be inducted into the White Plains High School Hall of Fame on October 26th. They are: **Dr. Pickward J. Bash, Jr.**, '47, an anesthesiologist and the first African-American graduate to attend medical school; **Richard M. Gardella**, '53, an attorney and recognized expert in Westchester municipal law; **T. Alexander Aleinikoff**, '70, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees; and **Eileen Naughton**, '75, Google, Inc.'s Director of Media Sales and Operations for North and Latin America. Ms. Knight said this day is a highlight of the year for the school and community.

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

PERSONNEL: In administrative appointments, **David Cabrera** will become Assistant Principal at the High School, moving over from the Highlands Middle School. **Carolyn Quintana** joins the High school staff as a House Administrator, coming to the district from New York City. In an Interim position, **Inas Morsi** was named Assistant Principal at Ridgeway School for the 2010-2011 school year.

Sonia Gonzalez was appointed Special Education Teacher at Church Street School.

The Board accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Sam **Smith**, Districtwide Grounds Worker.

RECOGNITION: Dr. Clouet presented the Board President with a plaque from the United States Department of Commerce, recognizing the district for its participation and contribution to the 2010 Census effort.

Assistant Superintendent for Business **Fred Seiler** was presented with awards for Financial Reporting, from the Government Finance Officers Association.

OTHER BUSINESS: Tax certiorari refunds for six commercial properties, totaling over \$800,000, were approved by the Board.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: September 27: Special Meeting, Education House, 7 P.M.
October 12: Regular Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld