

# THE BOARD REPORTS

## Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

August 22, 2011

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Christopher Clouet** asked for a moment of silence in memory of four former staff members: **Irmgard Jones** was a Teaching Assistant at Highlands School for 15 years, until her retirement in 2009. **Catherine Moorhead**, Librarian at Eastview for 14 years, retired in 1997. **Edward Potoma** spent 27 years as a Science Teacher in the Community School before retiring last year. **Dorothy Skidgell** served a secretary at Education House and at Rochambeau School for 18 years and retired in 1989.

DONATIONS: Dr. Clouet thanked a number of donors for their gifts to the schools. The **White Plains Football Association** donated a laptop computer and the Association along with **Ted O'Donnell** donated a 51-inch TV to the High School Football Program; the **Class of 1961** gave \$884.35 for athletic training equipment; **Susan Brumer** gave the High School Art Department a Camera and photography equipment; and **Pamela Marable** donated a cello to the Eastview Middle School Orchestra.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: In preparation for school opening, Dr. Clouet has been visiting each building and meeting with custodians. He is confident of a smooth opening on September 6<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Clouet said the district will commemorate the tenth anniversary of 9/11, on Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> with various activities. Coordinator of Social Studies **Lois Gordon** described the plans, which will be grade-appropriate and geared toward both curriculum and service.

PERSONNEL: In the administrative area, **Diana Knight** was reappointed Interim Principal at White Plains High School for the coming year. Dr. Clouet and Board Members commented that Ms. Knight has been a proactive interim administrator, instituting some excellent initiatives.

The contract with Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction **Jessica O'Donovan** was amended for the coming year. Board members have been pleased with Ms. O'Donovan's work and expressed confidence in her leadership.

Resignations for the purpose of retirement were accepted from **Mark Santa-Donato**, Business Education Teacher at the Middle School-Highlands, and **Andrew Vena**, Senior Custodian at Mamaroneck Avenue School. Mr. Santa-Donato will continue his coaching duties.

Eight probationary appointments were made: **Odalys Cedeno**, Elementary Education at Post Road School; **Luisa Cioffi**, Learning Facilitator at Church Street; **Lia Emanuel**, Guidance Counselor, Alternative & Supplemental Programs; **Mira Schwartz**, CSE Chairperson at Education House; **Elizabeth Verias**, School Psychologist, Middle School-Eastview; **Laura Frauenberg**, Business Education, High School; **Kathy Nissinoff**, Family & Consumer Science, Highlands Middle School; and **Stacy Caixeiro**, Learning Facilitator, George Washington School.

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

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT: The Board approved a consultant agreement with **The Great Books Foundation** to provide workshop training and in-classroom coaching for teachers in Grades 2-8, as the District implements this enrichment program to further challenge our highest achieving students. This program focuses on interpreting complex texts, vocabulary development and writing skills -- all of which prepare students for the most rigorous courses in high school and beyond.

MEDICAL SERVICES: Resulting from a Request for Proposals issued by the district, **Dr. Jennifer Longobardi** was appointed School Physician, replacing **Dr. Anthony Marano**, who retired in June. Other medical services will be provided by **Dr. Ann Engelland, Dr. Louis McIntyre, and Doctors Express**.

ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW: The Board approved an amendment to the district's APPR, based on State requirements. The district has already had a model in place which aligns with the State, except for the newly-mandated component. This relates to student growth, teacher improvement plans and the appeals process, which will become part of the revised APPR next year. The initiative deals with teacher and administrative effectiveness, student growth, superintendent evaluation and informational technology. Many of the issues will need to be negotiated with bargaining units. **Dr. Lenora Boehlert**, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, described the value-added growth model, assisted by **Lois Gordon** and **Kerry Broderick**, who have been part of the initial team, working to target what needs to happen in the classroom to bring about change based on data. The end result is that everyone is accountable and responsible.

TAX CERTIORARI: In a large tax certiorari settlement, the Board approved a refund of \$1.77 million for the **White Plains Galleria**. This covers the three-year period of 2009-2011.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: September 12: Regular Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.  
September 19: Special Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.  
(Executive Session)

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