

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

January 9, 2012

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Chris Clouet** asked for a moment of silence in memory of **Alice Neumann**, Nurse at the Battle Hill School from 1958 to 1978, when she retired.

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES: Dr. Clouet announced some of the colleges which have offered early acceptance to White Plains High School seniors. They include: **Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, NYU, University of Pennsylvania, Syracuse and Wesleyan**, among many others. Dr. Clouet congratulated the students along with their parents, teachers and guidance counselors, all of whom contributed to their success.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Clouet introduced a presentation from "two very talented administrative leaders" – Co-Directors of Special Education **Susan LeCointe** and **JoAnn Doherty**. In an overview of this complex program, Ms. LeCointe said that the total budget of \$24.9 million this year provides for 784 students. She reviewed the various types of disabilities and the costs for these services, noting that the district takes great care in making decisions on placements which will best serve these children. A cost comparison shows that expenditures have decreased in the last four years.

Ms. Doherty described the STAR Program (Students Targeting Achievement and Reintegration), formerly at New York Presbyterian Hospital and now at the Rochambeau School. It provides educational and therapeutic services to students aged 13-21 in a small, supportive environment. Ms. Doherty introduced **Gary Peluso**, Director of Alternative Programs, and **Robert Laub**, Teacher Coordinator. Mr. Laub provided background and statements from students on how invaluable the program has been for them. The staff is very proud of the accomplishments of these students, in terms of Regents exams and graduation rates.

Dr. Clouet mentioned another pending calendar change for a conference day in the spring, resulting from a second State revision of the testing schedule. This will be finalized at the February Board meeting and parents will be notified of the change.

PERSONNEL: **Jane Scheinman**, a former administrator in the district, was named Interim Assistant Principal at Ridgeway School, replacing **Inas Morsi-Horgans**, who resigned to take another position.

Angie Johnson, a Special Education Teacher at Ridgeway School, was awarded tenure by the Board. Presenting her credentials, Ridgeway Principal **Tashia Brown**, and Special Education Co-Director **JoAnn Doherty** described Ms. Johnson as a patient, organized and skilled teacher who takes a leadership role in her building.

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

DONATIONS: The Board accepted a donation of \$500 from **Georgia and William Pollak**, to be used for musical instruments at the High School. Dr. Clouet thanked the Pollaks for their generosity.

FACILITY TASK FORCE: Assistant Superintendent for Business **Fred Seiler** presented a report on the appointment of a Capital Project – Facility Task Force whose charge will be to assess the district's capital resources and major equipment needs. It will review the 2010 Building Condition Survey and current Debt Service financial plan and then prepare a recommendation for consideration by the Board of Education. The committee includes broad representation from the community.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

January 18:	Budget Forum #2, Church Street School Cafeteria, 7:30 P.M.
January 23:	Public Forum on Middle School Redesign, High School B-1 Room, 7 P.M.
January 30:	Special Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M. 2012-13 Budget
February 13:	Regular Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M. Middle School Redesign

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