

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

February 13, 2012

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Chris Clouet** asked for a moment of silence in memory of seven current and former district staff members. He said these people will long be remembered by the entire school community and extended sympathy to their families.

Arnold Clinton was a Physical Education Assistant in the district and a member of the Athletic Department for the last 24 years. He coached White Plains football and varsity wrestling. A 1980 WPHS graduate, he was a skilled athlete, setting records which still stand.

Angelo DiPilato served as a Carpenter in the district from 1973 to 1987.

Rocco Romeo was a Custodian at the High School, from 1970 to 1991.

Manuel (Manny) Rosenberg was with the district for 33 years, beginning as a Reading Teacher. He became Assistant Principal at Ridgeway and Mamaroneck Avenue Schools and retired in 1989.

Catherine Sheldon-Dagher was a Special Education Teacher in the STAR program at Rochambeau School and was with the district for four years. She also was active as a PTA leader.

Stephen Spellman was a Custodial Worker at the Highlands School, with the district for the last 17 years. He was a graduate of White Plains High School, Class of 1979.

Dr. Ronald Topping served the school district for 36 years, from 1959 to 1995. Starting as an Art Teacher at the High School, he later became Coordinator of Art and Music and of the More Able Student Program.

STUDENT RECOGNITION: The Board recognized High School Senior **Benjamin Van Doren**, the first White Plains student to be named a Finalist in the Intel Science Talent Search. He is one of only 300 students nationwide to receive this honor and the only student from Westchester County. Benjamin made a presentation on his research and was given a proclamation from the County Executive's Office. Certificates from Intel were given to him and to Teacher **Timothy Selg**. Mr. Selg introduced the other seniors in the school's Science Research Program, who described their research projects. They are **Sarah Boniche, Shaina Brady, Rong-Si Deng, Toni Moricone, Victoria Nizzari, Thomas Reid, Elyse Schupak, Benjamin Schwartz and Devin Shannon**. Sixteen White Plains students have been named Semifinalists by Intel throughout the years.

CALENDAR CHANGE: The Board approved additional changes to the current school calendar, resulting from a second revision in testing made by the New York State Education Department.

- A new Superintendent's Conference Day, Monday, April 30th, will replace the one on April 26th.
- The early release day on Wednesday, April 18th, will be eliminated, due to testing.
- April 4th will be the "give back" day, instead of April 16th, if there are two or fewer snow days.

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: In an update on Capital Improvements, Dr. Clouet said that an excellent team is in the early stages of examining the challenges posed by our aging facilities, and how those challenges translate into a public discussion and an eventual vote.

Discussing the proposal to implement Project Lead the Way, a recognized program designed to attract students to engineering, Dr. Clouet introduced **Dr. Margaret Doty**, Science Coordinator, who had made a formal presentation on this a few months ago. Dr. Doty answered Board questions, which touched upon teacher training, grants and partnerships with corporations, plans for the Middle School, and retention figures for the program. This proposal will be brought to the Board for a vote at a future meeting.

Assistant Superintendent for Business **Fred Seiler** presented the Instructional Expenditure Budget - Part 1. Expenditures for this portion total just over \$19 million, which is 10% of the proposed budget. Mr. Seiler reviewed the various components, including Curriculum Development and Supervision, Regular School Supervision, Instructional Technology, Guidance, Health, Interscholastic Sports, among others. He said the proposed figures are under the 2% increase, as limited by the cap, but the challenge remains, with the teaching and special education budgets still to come. He reviewed remaining dates on the budget calendar.

RETIREMENT: The Board accepted the resignations for the purpose of retirement of two administrators: **Michael DeChance**, Principal of Mamaroneck Avenue School, and **Jacqueline Luke**, House Administrator at the High School. Fourteen teachers also submitted their retirement requests: **Jean Chenault, Anthony Cutaia, JoAnne Dunphy, Jacqueline Hemberger-Coffey, Mary Jane Kilian, Janet King, Dorothy Leech, Susan Lynn, Carol Mahaffey, Elise Martin, Joseph Pellerito, Kathleen Potocki, Lynn Rozen and Timothy Selg.**

DONATIONS: The Board accepted the following donations:

- A bequest of \$5,000 from **Helen G. Patrick**, for an Art Scholarship in her name
- \$10,000 from **IBM** for a Technology Grant at the Highlands campus of the Middle School
- \$10,000 from **The Foundation for Public Education in White Plains** for eight different projects
- \$50 from **Alpha Upsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity**, for the George Washington School playground
- A violin from **Aleandrino Llanos** for Ridgeway School
- A violin from **Otoniel Cardoso** for Church Street School
- \$500 from **CPD NY Energy Corp.** for Mamaroneck Avenue School

Dr. Clouet thanked these donors for their generosity.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

February 27:	Middle School Redesign Forum, High School, B-1, 7 P.M.
March 12:	Regular Board Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M. Public Hearing on the Budget
March 14:	Budget Forum, Post Road School Auditorium, 7:30 P.M.
March 19:	Special Meeting, Education House, 7 P.M.
March 21:	Budget Forum, High School, B-1 Room, 7:30 P.M.
March 26:	Special Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M. Final Review of Proposed Budget

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld