

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

September 12, 2011

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Christopher Clouet** asked for a moment of silence in memory of **Helen Kislik**, a Bookkeeper in the Accounting Department for 15 years, before her retirement in 1984.

AWARDS: Dr. Clouet presented awards for financial reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association and the Association of School Business Officials to Assistant Superintendent for Business **Fred Seiler**. The awards recognize the high quality of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the 2010 year. Mr. Seiler thanked the Business staff for its help in bringing these honors to the district.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Clouet spoke about a very smooth school opening and thanked the Facilities staff for its hard work to prepare the buildings.

In an update on the Middle School Redesign planning, Dr. Clouet announced that the first public meeting in a series will be held on September 22nd at the High School, at 7 P.M. The goal is to build a consensus around what would make a better Middle School experience for students.

PUBLIC HEARING: Fred Seiler presented a summary of New York State's Contract for Excellence (C4E), 2011-2012. Post Road School and White Plains High School remain as schools requiring improvement under C4E. Funding is \$1.5 million, which is not new State Aid, but rather included in the Foundation Aid already provided. The State earmarks how it must be spent -- to benefit students with the greatest needs. Mr. Seiler reviewed allocations for the current year. The 30-day period for public comment runs from September 19th to October 18th and responses should be directed to Assistant Superintendent **Jessica O'Donovan**. The draft proposal is posted on the district's website: www.whiteplainspublicschools.org

On a related topic, Ms. O'Donovan provided an update on the No Child Left Behind Act, a similar initiative from the Federal Government. Adequate yearly progress was not met in each school and the subgroups involved were Students With Disabilities and Limited English Proficiency. The district receives \$1.3 million in Title 1 money and must follow NCLB requirements for schools in Improvement Year 1 or beyond: to conduct a School Quality Review, to offer Supplemental Educational Services and to offer Public School Choice. Suzanne Lasser reviewed the choice component, which applies only to Post Road School. Ms. O'Donovan said it is a challenge and will take time, but we will succeed in reaching the accountability requirements.

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

