

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

October 6, 2014

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent **Timothy Connors** asked for a moment of silence in memory of former teacher **Irwin Sears**. Mr. Sears taught Social Studies at the High School from 1956 until his retirement in 1987.

AWARDS: Mr. Connors presented two awards to the Business Office for excellence in financial reporting. **Assistant Superintendent for Business Fred Seiler** and **Business Administrator/Treasurer Carol Stein** accepted the honors from the Government Finance Officers Association and the Association of School Business Officials.

Mr. Connors announced another award -- from the New York School Public Relations Association -- for the district newsletter "Community Link," for outstanding achievement in educational communications. The publication is designed by **Jill Singer Graphics** and written by **Hillary Millman**. **District Clerk Michele Schoenfeld** oversees the project.

AUDITOR'S REPORT: Representatives of the auditing firm of **Nawrocki Smith** presented the independent auditor's report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. Partner **David Tellier** praised the Business Office for its proficiency and said the district is in a good financial position with no weaknesses or deficiencies in internal control. He cautioned about challenges in the future, including significant increases in retirement and health benefits expenses. The audit is available to the public on the district's website.

SOLAR POWER: **Director of Facilities Frank Stefanelli** described a new Solar Power initiative instituted by the Governor. The New York Power Authority and the State Energy Research and Development Authority have teamed up with the State Education Department to offer free consulting services to determine if solar energy is feasible in our schools. The goal is to reduce our reliance on power and use a cleaner energy source, at no cost or obligation to the district. Once the information is collected, Mr. Stefanelli will bring a proposed plan to the Board.

PARENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS: Following a new resolution in New York State Education Law, the Board adopted a Parents' Bill of Rights. It deals with the protection of confidentiality of personally identifiable information, as provided in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. The Bill defines privacy and identifies the various data packages used by the district. This addresses questions that arise and will be posted on the website. It was developed by Mr. Seiler in conjunction with attorneys for the district.

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

DISTRICT WiFi PROJECT: The Board approved a Global Technology Services contract with **IBM** for the design and configuration of the GPON – Gigabit Passive Optical Network. **Ron Velez**, Director of Management Information Systems for the district, reviewed the district's WiFi project, originally presented in 2012. Following that, the bond vote was passed, SED approvals were received and work was done with H2M architects. This infrastructure plan will serve as the foundation for a new WiFi network, security systems, HVAC and telephones. It will provide students and staff with a state-of-the-art network to enhance instructional programs with the next generation of technologies.

DONATIONS: The Board accepted two donations to the district:

\$418.24 from **Target's** Take Charge of Education program for Mamaroneck Avenue School, and \$2,295 from various donors for the **Dorothy Ann Peters Memorial Scholarship Fund** established by her daughter, **Andrea Robinson**

THANK YOU: Mr. Connors expressed sincere thanks to a Mamaroneck Avenue teacher, **Ann Havis-Williams**, for her life-saving action last week to help a student who was choking.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: November 10: Regular Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld