

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

August 14, 2017

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Dr. Ricca asked for a moment of silence in memory of **Joan Brisson**, an elementary teacher at Ridgeway School from 1969 to 1999, and **Cleveland Brown**, Highlands School teacher from 1964 to 1992. He added that our thoughts and prayers go out to those affected by the recent tragic events in Charlottesville, VA, and said our staff stands firm and strong to address the needs of our students in terms of treatment and equity.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Ricca recognized several summer activities – the Bits 'N Pieces program, run by the White Plains Youth Bureau, the Extended School Year Summer Program and **Representative Nita Lowey's** Roundtable, in which three White Plains High School students participated: **Pilar Ceron, Michael Hunter and Louis Melendez**.

Dr. Ricca also mentioned the recent Board retreat for planning purposes, provided a facilities update, discussed community connections -- including social media, and the district's cybersecurity risk assessment.

He reviewed goals for the coming year, which cover student achievement, organizational efficiency, community partnerships and communication, and strategic planning.

Some important upcoming dates include the first day of school on September 5th, and Dads Take Your Child to School Day on September 19th.

PERSONNEL: Dr. Ricca congratulated Security Assistant **Claire Strati** and School Psychologist **Janet Rivera** and wished them well upon their retirement from the district. Both are at the High School.

The Board appointed **Gaetano Vitiello** as Administrator for Home Bound Instruction, Superintendent's Hearings and High School Student Activities. He comes to the district from North Salem Middle/High School and has a well-rounded background in education. He replaces **Sara Hall** who has moved to a new position.

Seven teachers were appointed to Probationary positions: At Church Street School **Kensey Keller** and **Christina Luft** will teach Elementary Education. At Post Road School **Silvia Lloyd** will be Library Media Specialist and **Karen Cook** will be Instructional Specialist. **Michelle Alibrandi** will teach Elementary Education at Mamaroneck Avenue School and Districtwide, **Michelle Repa** will be a Math Specialist and **Alyssa Mendes** will teach Music.

BOARD MEMBERS: Rosemarie Eller, President; Charlie Norris, Vice President; Sheryl Brady, James Hricay, Cayne Letizia, Rose Lovitch, Randy Stein

DONATIONS: Dr. Ricca thanked the following donors for their generous gifts:

Ruth Barnett for \$10,000 for the Philip Barnett Memorial Scholarship Fund

Charles Savigny for a violin for Ridgeway School

Mimi Leibman for art supplies for various schools

Bruce Grobe for golf balls for the Golf Team

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

August 28: Special Meeting, Education House, 6:15 P.M.

September 11: Regular Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld