

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

August 13, 2018

MOMENT OF SILENCE: **Superintendent Joseph Ricca** asked for a moment of silence in memory of four former staff members. **Hyacinth Eason** was Cook Manager at the Rosedale School for 19 years, retiring in 1982. **William Hughes**, with the district for 21 years, was Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and then Deputy Superintendent of Schools. He retired in 1984. **Kathryn Petruzello-Dawson** was a Teaching Assistant at the High School for 27 years, retiring in 2017. **Carmela Russo** was Internal Auditor for 21 years, retiring in 1988. Dr. Ricca also mentioned the passing of **William Ahearn, Jr.**, 2015 graduate of White Plains High School.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Ricca reviewed summer facilities work taking place in all the buildings. He also reported on last week's Strategic Planning sessions, over three days, and **Board President Rosemarie Eller** thanked the participants and expressed the Board's appreciation to them. Dr. Ricca said it was very successful and he will provide a presentation at the September Board Meeting. He also reported on professional development activities.

PERSONNEL: The Board accepted resignations for the purpose of retirement from **Laura Dam**, School Office Manager at Mamaroneck Avenue School; **Frances DeFreitas**, School Office Manager at Ridgeway School; and **Jose Agudelo**, Custodial Worker at the High School.

Eight new teachers received Probationary appointments for school opening. Two will teach in the Spanish Zone of the Dual Language Program – **Mayra Sollazzo** at George Washington School and **Claudia O'Riley** at Post Road School. **Erin DiMartino** will be Library Media Specialist at Post Road. **Christian Cabral** will teach Social Studies at the High School. **Paul Harrison** and **Lisa Sohr** will teach Math at the Highlands Middle School. **Grizel Marquez** will teach Elementary Education at Post Road. **Steven Strong** will teach ENL at the High School.

The Board accepted the resignation of **Chad Driscoll-Gleason**, Assistant Principal at the Highlands Middle School, who will be taking a position nearer to his home on Long Island. **Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Scott Pepper** reported that a search for Mr. Gleason's replacement is in progress and has been narrowed to seven finalists.

DONATIONS: Dr. Ricca thanked the following donors for their generosity:

Naama Caspi for a trumpet for Post Road School

Various donors for \$1,155 for the John & Frances Mettler Memorial Scholarship

Michael & Lauren Kurtz and **Adam Kornfeld** for \$2,500 for the Margaret L. Kurtz Memorial Scholarship

Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Cicchiello for \$75 for the Pasquale Evangelista Scholarship

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Woodward for \$200 for the Brown Family Memorial Scholarship

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

OTHER ACTION: The Board approved the 2018-19 Professional Development Plan – the primary purpose being to provide the necessary support for staff to increase student achievement. A major area of focus is on improving literacy skills.

The Board also approved the Districtwide Safety & Emergency Management Plan, which was developed with the **Altaris Consulting Group** and is a requirement for all districts. As stated in the plan, “Preventive measures and good planning will reduce the likelihood that emergencies will occur and allow us to address those that do in an expeditious and effective manner.”

UPCOMING MEETINGS: August 27: Special Meeting, Education House, 6 P.M.
September 17: Regular Meeting, Education House 7:30 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld