

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

July 2, 2018

REORGANIZATION MEETING: Superintendent **Dr. Joseph L. Ricca** took his Oath of Office along with Board Members **James Hricay** and **Rose Lovitch**, re-elected in May for three-year terms. **Cayne Letizia**, the third Board Member elected, was absent and will take his oath at a later time. The Board re-elected its officers -- **Rosemarie Eller**, President, and **Charlie Norris**, Vice President. Action was taken on various resolutions required to conduct business in 2018-19.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: A moment of silence was observed in memory of **Ethel Kanarfogel**, ESOL Teacher at the Highlands School for 24 years. She retired in 1996.

GRADUATION & MOVING UP EXERCISES: Board members attended ceremonies in all the schools and Mrs. Eller commented that the Board, parents and staff alike all experience great satisfaction at these events, seeing the “fruits of their labors” in the students’ completion of each milestone. Dr. Ricca added that he has enjoyed his first year in White Plains and feels it was a very successful one, with excellent achievement and educational experiences.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: Dr. Ricca introduced High School student **Jackson Reynolds**, one of the recently-selected student liaisons to the Board of Education. He and two other students will share information between the High School and the Board.

Dr. Ricca then shared the results of a report on Updated Space Utilization & Housing Impact in 2017-18. It provided enrollment projections and estimates of the effect of approved and proposed housing. The Master Planning Committee will be examining this in greater depth.

In a report on residency, Dr. Ricca said 23 students were found to be non-residents this past year and are no longer in the White Plains Schools.

PERSONNEL: Salary adjustments of 2% were made for the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, and Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services.

Dr. Joannes (John) Sieverding was appointed Interim Principal at the Eastview Middle School. Dr. Sieverding has many years of experience in educational administration, most recently as a high school principal in Beacon, New York.

The resignation for the purpose of retirement was accepted from **Beverly Paonessa**, Teaching Assistant at Mamaroneck Avenue School.

Six probationary appointments were made: **Melissa Akey**, Art Teacher at the High School, **Amy Brannigan**, Kindergarten Teacher, and **Lauren Casalino**, Elementary Teacher, both at Ridgeway, **Amy Estersohn**, English, High School, **Laura Florez**, School Psychologist at George Washington, and **Anthony DiTaranto**, Music, Districtwide.

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

DONATION: Dr. Ricca thanked The Matsuri for its donation of \$350 for use in connection with English as a New Language.

OTHER ACTION:

The Board approved trips abroad for students in each of the High School's language programs. Students will travel to Austria/Switzerland, Costa Rica, Italy, Quebec and Suzhou China.

The Board adopted the revised Code of Conduct, as discussed at the previous meeting. It includes changes in the dress code, as suggested by students.

An agreement was made with the City of White Plains to continue the successful School Resource Officer Program which provides for two officers of the White Plains Department of Public Safety to be assigned to the schools.

The Board voted to transfer \$10 million from the Capital Reserve to the Capital Projects Fund, as approved by the voters in May. The money provides for various building project work which begins this summer.

Various agreements were approved, for Special Education tuition, BOCES services, and on monthly rates for employee benefits..

UPCOMING MEETINGS: July 17: Special Meeting, Education House, 7 P.M.
 July 23: Special Meeting, Education House, 7 P.M.
 August 13: Regular Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld