



# THE BOARD REPORTS

## *Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting*

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

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April 20, 2020

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Joseph Ricca** asked for a moment of silence in memory of **Joan Emerson**, a Media Aide at the High School from 1981 to 2008.

UPDATE ON CORONAVIRUS SITUATION: On behalf of the Board, **President Rosemarie Eller** expressed sincere thanks and gratitude to everyone, from Dr. Ricca -- to the staff members -- to the community -- for all their help and cooperation in moving the District through this unprecedented and difficult time. Dr. Ricca echoed those sentiments and also thanked the Board for its support. He commended **Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Dr. Debbie Hand** for her work on the grading situation and said remote learning improves each day. He noted the distribution of almost 13,000 meals to date. Re-entry plans are now being considered and it is likely that there will be changes when schools reopen.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Discussing the 2020-21 Budget, Dr. Ricca noted the possible cut in State Aid of 15-20%, according to the Governor, and urged everyone to advocate with our legislators for our needs. Their contact information will be posted.

Turning to tonight's agenda, Dr Ricca welcomed new staff members being appointed and also said he is excited about the new grant to fund My Brother's Keeper, a partnership with the High School and Youth Bureau.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT: The Board appointed **Celia Strino** as Director of Secondary Special Education, Districtwide. She comes to White Plains from three years as Supervisor of Support Services at Pocantico Hills School District. In addition to degrees from the American University of Rome, Hunter College and Fordham University, Ms. Strino has a J.D. degree from Temple University.

PERSONNEL: The Board accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement of **Margaret Ciraco**, Teaching Assistant at Post Road School.

Twelve teachers received Probationary appointments to begin in September:

At the High School, **Aljuany Creacy** and **Susan Murphy** will be School Social Workers and **Dan Swayne** will teach Earth Science and Physics. **Colleen Fenlon** will teach Earth Science at Highlands. At Church Street School, **Greta Luka** will be a School Psychologist. At Mamaroneck Avenue, **Marisa Barzelatto** and **Randy Gannicelli** will be Special Education Teachers and **Veronica Mittenzwei** will teach Elementary Education. At George Washington, **Marsha Blair** and **Christina Portillo** will teach Elementary Education, and at Ridgeway School, **Carolina Restaino** will teach Special Education and **Kathleen Vaughn** will be an ICT Teacher.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: May 11: Regular Meeting, 7:30 P.M.  
May 27: Special Meeting, 7 P.M. (Teacher Tenure)

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld