

# THE BOARD REPORTS

## Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

April 13, 2015

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Superintendent **Tim Connors** asked for a moment of silence in memory of six members of the school community. **June Colantuno** was a Teacher Aide and then an Office Assistant in the Special Education Department for a total of 23 years until retiring in 1998. **Vincie Errico** worked for the district from 1967 to 1985 as a Senior Clerk Typist at the High School. **Walter Houston** was a Custodial Worker at the Highlands, Rochambeau and the High School for 24 years, from 1971 to 1995. **Evelyn Peeples** was a first grade teacher at Church Street School from 1965 to 1979.

Two other members of the community passed away in recent days: **Louise Doyle**, an active PTA member and participant in school affairs; and **Milt Hoffman**, White Plains High School graduate and member of the Hall of Fame, who had a 50-year career as a journalist and editor.

**SCHOLAR-ATHLETE RECOGNITION:** Athletic Director **Jennifer DeSena** introduced coaches of five winter Varsity Teams who presented a total of 133 Scholar-Athletes. Teams represented were Girls' Basketball, Ice Hockey, Boys' Indoor Track, Girls' Indoor Track and Boys' Swimming. Board President **Rosemarie Eller** congratulated students, coaches and their parents for this wonderful achievement.

**2015-2016 BUDGET:** The Board approved the Proposed Budget of \$205,800,000, an increase of 2.95% over last year, with a property tax increase of 2.09%. The budget is in full compliance with the mandated property tax cap. Assistant Superintendent for Business **Fred Seiler** noted the additional State Aid of a little over \$1 million and mentioned possible uses for those funds, including accommodations for increases in general enrollment and in the number of students with disabilities, a Kindergarten Physical Education teacher, and repairs to damage of driveways and parking lots caused by the severe winter, among others.

The public will vote on the budget and on the election of Board Members on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

**TESTING AND OPTING OUT:** Following up on statements made by various parents about the upcoming State tests, Mr. Connors said the most important action needed is communication with the State. The Governor, State Education Department and Regents must know that parents and educators feel "these tests are broken and need to be fixed." Mr. Connors is active with the Superintendents' group and said that if everyone works together, we can affect change. He added that, logistically, our principals are prepared to handle all situations surrounding the tests and students who opt out, and we will do the best job possible, for the good of all students.

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

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**PERSONNEL:** Mr. Connors mentioned a change in structure for the Athletic Director position, following the retirement of Ms. DeSena at the end of this year. The duties will be split into two positions: Athletic Director and Coordinator of Physical Education, K-12. The positions will be advertised shortly.

Salaries and benefits for 2015-16 for the Cabinet and Managerial and Confidential employees were approved by the Board.

The Board accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement of **Bernadette Pachonas**, Administrative Assistant in the Human Resources Department, effective in September.

Mr. Connors welcomed members of the Church Street and George Washington School staffs who were present at the meeting.

**DONATIONS:** The Board accepted the following donations to the district and Mr. Connors thanked the donors for their generosity.

\$100,000 from the **Schonberger Family** to establish the Hillair Educational and Leadership Scholarship Fund. Mr. Connors provided detail on this endowment of a need-based scholarship with criteria of academic commitment and demonstrated leadership.

\$170.91 from **Target** Take Charge of Education for the High School G.O.

A clarinet from **Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Haines** for the High School

A set of drums from **Mr. and Mrs. Allan Gould** for Post Road School

\$250 from the **Lower Hudson Chapter of the New York Water Environmental Association** for the High School Math and Science programs

\$11,300 from **Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Masinter** for the Masinter Family Foundation Grant

Art supplies from **Helen Rosenberg** for the High School painting classes

<b>UPCOMING MEETINGS:</b>	May 11:	Regular Meeting, Education House , 7:30 P.M.
	May 20:	Special Meeting, Education House, 5:30 P.M. Canvass of Election
	May 26:	Special Meeting, High School Media Center, 7:30 P.M. Teacher Tenure Appointments
	June 8:	Regular Meeting, High School Media Center, 7:45 P.M. Recognition of Retirees and 25-Year Staff Administrator Tenure Appointments

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld