

THE BOARD REPORTS

Highlights of the White Plains Board of Education Meeting

December 14, 2015

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Paul Fried** asked for a moment of silence in memory of three former staff members. **Mark Benevento** taught Math at the High School for 29 years until retiring in 2012. **Rose Cooper** was a Guidance Counselor at the High School from 1959 to 1985. **Karolyn Robinson** was Internal Auditor at Education House from 1972 to 1985. Dr. Fried also mentioned **Lalayjah Person**, a preschool student at Rochambeau School who passed away recently.

GOOD NEWS: The Superintendent announced several awards and recognitions:

- The College Board has announced that the district has been named to the **6th Annual AP District Honor Roll**. This recognizes districts for increasing access to Advanced Placement coursework while maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning 3 or higher on the exams.
- **Joan Gomez-Aguilar** has been awarded a full scholarship to Yale University through the Questbridge program. Joan's Guidance Counselor, **Sade Ortiz**, was thanked for her efforts in helping to make this happen.
- WPHS Tigers Baseball player **Dan Lotito** has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball at Adelphi University next year.
- Eastview sixth grader **Dante Palumbo** was named to the 2015-16 New York Rangers Pee Wee Ice Hockey Team, one of only three players selected from Westchester. He will compete in a worldwide tournament in Quebec in February.
- Five WPHS students were selected to perform at the 2015 New York State Music Association Winter Conference in Rochester last week. Students are **Meredith Abato, Jacob Brady, Elana Hausknecht, Isabelle Levine and Sarah Samaranayake**. Their Music Teachers are **Penelope Cruz, Kathryn Davis and Zachary May**.
- The National Athletic Trainers' Association awarded the High School its Safe Sports School Award, which reinforces the importance of providing the best level of care, injury-prevention and treatment. **Athletic Trainer Mike Mirabella** was congratulated for bringing this award to the district.

SCHOLAR-ATHLETES: **Athletic Director Matt Cameron** introduced coaches of eight fall Varsity teams who presented a total of 167 athletes for this honor. Teams represented were Boys' and Girls' Cross Country, Football, Field Hockey, Girls' Soccer, Swimming & Diving, Tennis and Volleyball, all of which qualified for Scholar-Athlete status by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association. **Board President Rosemarie Eller** congratulated the students, their parents and coaches for this wonderful achievement.

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

GW RUNNING CLUB: **Denise Tomici, Interim Coordinator of Physical Education**, introduced George Washington School teachers **MaryBeth Stefano** and **Karen Sullivan** who described this activity at the school to promote healthy physical activity. Students spoke about their experiences, running a mile each week for 25 weeks to complete a marathon.

PERSONNEL: The Board reluctantly accepted the resignation of **Scott Persampieri, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources**. Mr. Persampieri will leave January 16th for a position with the Syracuse District. Dr. Fried said he will be greatly missed.

The Board approved the appointment to tenure of **Lauren Berrios**, Art Teacher, Districtwide, and accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement of **Maria Gonzalez**, High School Custodial Worker.

DONATIONS: Dr. Fried thanked the following for their generous donations to the district:

Edward Fisher for Soccer Jerseys for the Boys' Soccer Team

Roy Haberman for \$1,500 for the Highlands School Student Organization, with a matching contribution from **New York Life**

Anthony Tedesco for Art Materials for Rochambeau School

The Battistini Family for \$50 for Mamaroneck Avenue School, in memory of **Dave Fantuzzo**

Phyllis Arcuni for a Drum Set for Post Road School's Music program

William Coss, Karla Kaskie, Lindsey Hansen-Sturm, Lynn Israel, Judith Hutton, Jennifer

Horn and Winifred Gittens for contributions for the Dorothy Ann Peters Scholarship

Stop & Shop for \$100 for Eastview Middle School's Adopt-a-Soldier program

OTHER BUSINESS: **Assistant Superintendent for Business Fred Seiler** said the Budget process for 2016-17 has begun. He reviewed the calendar, noted meetings scheduled, invited public input, and mentioned that budget information will be shared on the district's website. Once again, the major challenge is the property tax cap. Dr. Fried said he is pleased that the district is in a good financial position and attributed this to excellent management and the decisions of the Board.

Mr. Seiler, assisted by **Facilities Director Frank Stefanelli**, reviewed a proposal for an energy savings initiative by Solar City to provide solar panels at five schools. **Nick Walsh** and **Joy Crossman**, from Solar City, and **Evan Kolkos**, from New York Power Authority, joined district counsel **Stephanie Burns** to answer Board questions. The project would provide the school district with the tools and expertise for solar energy and thus reduce costs. Schools involved are the High School, Eastview, Post Road, Highlands and Ridgeway. Estimated savings are about \$16,000 in the first year and more than \$335,000 over 18 years. There would be no upfront costs to the district and an additional benefit would be an educational component. The Board will consider the proposal.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: January 11: Regular Meeting, Education House, 7:30 P.M.

Editor: Michele Schoenfeld